

# Wem Rural Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 3 April 2018, at the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, Wem, starting at 7pm

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**Present:**

Chair: Cllr Jon Murgatroyd Clerk: Carole Warner  
Residents and others present: 11

**APM01/18 Welcome by the Chair of the meeting**

The Chair Cllr Jon Murgatroyd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APM02/18 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 4 April 2017 to be approved and signed.**

The Minutes were approved and signed

**APM03/18 Annual Report of the Parish Council**

Cllr Murgatroyd presented the Report:

Elections to the Parish Council are held every 4 years and took place in May 2017. The Council lost Bob Parsons and Trevor Hayward who both resigned for personal reasons just before the elections. Gillian Coleman, whilst elected, could not sign her acceptance of office again for personal reasons. The Council thanks all 3 for their service to the community. All remaining Councillors were re-elected and the Council has successfully co-opted new Councillors: Stella Whyte, Ruth Williams and Georgia Bruce.

Communication with parishioners remains a focal point for the Council. Three editions of the newsletter have been issued since the last APM including two consultation papers relating to our future planning policy and the other to a future relief road around Wem. The website is regularly updated, and we are currently looking at introduce regular updates via social media.

The Council continued to provide community assistance through the grant schemes. Support for Coton Cricket Club in Spring 2017 enabled them to invest in new training equipment and the Council supported 8 local groups with grant funding ranging from £200 to £700. The Council continues to look to support a number of larger projects utilising the Community Led Housing fund both within our Parish and also Wem Town.

Finally, after 4 years, Airband's deployment of high-speed wireless broadband across Shropshire is starting. Wem Rural is one of the early beneficiaries with a new Wi-Fi mast being erected in Edstaston as we speak, and hopefully planned to go live in June 18! Over 50 planning applications across the Parish have been received for consultation. With regard to Planning Policy, after much deliberation and consultation the Council has agreed to allow some open market development in the Parish.

During the year there have been some large scale and lengthy highways maintenance schemes in the Parish which resulted in meetings with Shropshire about issues at Barkers Green and Horton. Following concerns raised by residents over time, the Council commissioned speed monitoring at Quina Brook. However, the results did not show enforcement was required. The Council continues to report potholes and other highways issues to Shropshire Council on behalf of residents and businesses.

More recently, the Parish Council has driven the re-launch of the Wem Economic Forum, bringing on board a wide group of interested parties. It is hoped that the Council can use the Forum as a vehicle to promote Wem business to a wider audience.

Finally, the Council has achieved the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme. Achieving this level demonstrates the Council meets the requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. The Council is now working towards the next level, Quality.

**AMP04/18 Parish Debate – YOUR opportunity to raise questions and matters of interest or concern**

Discussion took place on the Parish Council’s use of Social Media and the installation of the satellite masts for Broadband in Wolverley and Edstaston.

The Chair, Cllr Murgatroyd, declared the meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed.....

Date.....