



Annual Report

Wem Rural Parish Council
May 2018 to April 2019

The Parish Council has an up-to-date website and issues newsletters to keep residents informed, but it is recommended good practice for each household to receive a copy of the Chair's Annual Report. Cllr Liz Vernon gave her verbal report at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2019 which is reproduced and expanded here:

I would like to highlight four main achievements of the last year, firstly achieving the Quality Level of the Local Councils Award Scheme in August 2018. This is the second level in the scheme, having already achieved the Foundation Level in 2017. The Quality Award was gained thanks to the hard work of our excellent Parish Clerk, Carole Warner. The whole Council is now working towards achieving the highest level, Quality Gold Award. Why participate in the Scheme? The Local Council Award Scheme provide a framework to support all local councils to meet their full potential. Wem Rural Parish Councillors want to serve their local communities and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there. This scheme offers the Parish Council the opportunity to show that it meets the standards set by the sector, to be assessed by its peers, and to put in place the building blocks for continued improvement.

Secondly, Wem Rural Parish has improved broadband thanks to both BT providing superfast fibre broadband connection to some homes and also a company called Airband providing fixed wireless broadband. A mast to support its technology was erected in Edstaston last July and this was followed up by an Airband representative attending one of the monthly Parish Council meetings. However, we understand that there is still a problem with the BT fibre connection from Cabinet 21. People in North Shropshire now have more choice regarding their broadband supplier. It does seem more and more necessary to have good broadband connectivity these days especially as

the Making Tax Digital requirement (MTD for VAT) will have an impact on local businesses who will need cloud services to meet the needs of HM Revenue and Customs as from April.

Thirdly, Wem Rural Parish Council has designated sums of money from the Community-Led Housing Grant Scheme to assist local community projects and two more significant sums of money from the Scheme have been earmarked. One for the extension project at Edstaston Village Hall for £25,000. The hard working Hall Committee are busy organising events and funding raising and will be making applications to raise funds from other organisations. The other earmarked funds if for the car park improvement project at Newtown Primary School and is for £15,000. This is a scheme to relieve the daily parking congestion in the village of Newtown.

Our fourth achievement is the strengthening of the Wem Economic Forum, thanks to the collaboration of Wem Rural Parish Council, Wem Town Council, Shropshire Council and other local organisations. Our thanks to Cllr Tim Wilton-Morgan who is the nominated Chair and Carole Warner who is the Secretary and Treasurer of the Forum. They have assisted the work on Wem town traffic flows, area emergency planning, and working towards making Wem Dementia Friendly. We look forward to continued ideas that are being brought forward by the Forum to improve economic and commercial development of Wem Town and the surrounding Wem Rural Parish.

Four achievements which make a difference to our community. Whatever 2019/2020 will bring, the Council will continue to work on your behalf.

If you have any questions on the Report, please contact the Council Chair, Liz Vernon or the Parish Clerk, Carole Warner. Contact details on the left hand side of this page.

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For further
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Annual Financial Report 2018/19

Payments	Actual 2017/18	Actual 2018/19	Budget 2019/20
General Admin			
Clerk Salary / Allowance / Emp NI	£8,647.25	£8,798.34	£11,500.00
Admin Expenses	£1,213.78	£1,259.79	£1,250.00
Audit	£272.50	£275.00	£300.00
Newsletter	£2,323.07	£1,428.51	£2,000.00
Website	£255.00	£160.50	£250.00
Insurance	£530.94	£602.18	£650.00
Subscriptions	£667.86	£700.14	£750.00
Training	£383.00	£247.00	£500.00
Elections	£400.00	£300.00	£0.00
Other			
Community Plan Actions	£1,000.00	£205.00	£4,500.00
Neighbourhood Fund	£0.00	£75.00	£0.00
Grants	£900.00	£2,600.00	£3,000.00
General Power of Competence	£1,300.00	£94.95	£170.00
Community-Led Housing Grant	£6,396.84	£5,000	£0.00
Repairs	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00
Play Equipment Inspection	£.66.50	£66.50	£75.00
Edstaston Village Hall	£0.00	£0.00	£3,000.00
Contingency			£700.00
Total Excl. VAT	£24,356.74	£21,812.91	£28,945.00
VAT	£953.53	£483.84	£400.00
Total Incl. VAT	£25,310.27	£22,296.75	£29,345.00

Receipts	Actual 2017/18	Actual 2018/19	Budget 2019/20
Precept	£25,000.00	£26,000.00	£26,263.00
Interest	£155.60	£243.27	£100.00
VAT Refund	£3,199.41	£311.49	£500.00
Neighbourhood Funds	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Sub Total	£28,355.01	£26,554.76	£26,863.00
Transfer from/to Reserves	£3,044.74	£4,258.01	£2,482.00
Total	£25,310.27	£22,296.75	£29,345.00

Balances as at 31 March 2019

Reconciled Bank Balances

Current Account	£4,184.10
Deposit Account	£35,363.41
Community Account	£519.31
Grant Account	£41,869.3
Net Assets	£81,936.13

Represented by Reserves

Balance as at 1 April 2018	£77,678.12
Less excess receipts over payments	£4,258.01
Balance as at 31 March 2019	£81,936.13

Reserves Breakdown as at 31 March 2019

Earmarked Reserves

Clerk's Salary	£3,000.00
Legal Fees	£2,250.00
Website	£1,425.00
VAS	£2,200.00
Community Plan Actions	£5,850.00
Bus Shelter VAT	£516.00
Neighbourhood Fund	£273.02
Community-Led Housing	£41,230.16
Edstaston Village Hall	£8,000.00
Diamond Jubilee Fund	£519.31
	£65,263.49

Contingency Reserves

	£16,672.64
	£81,936.13