

Wem Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 August 2020, remotely by Zoom starting at 7pm

Formal Meeting

Present:

Councillors: Liz Vernon (Chair), Peter Broomhall, Huw Edwards, Glynis Nicholls,
Peter Slack, Len Staines, Stella Whyte, Ruth Williams and Tim
Wilton-Morgan.

Shropshire Councillor: Chris Mellings

Clerk: Carole Warner

Members of the Public: 2

41/20 Public Participation Period:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first remotely held meeting. Members of the public did not wish to speak.

42/20 Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Julia Goode and Peter Marsh (accepted)

Shropshire Councillor Pauline Dee

43/20 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on 3 March 2020 were approved and would be signed outside the meeting.

44/20 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

- a. Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.
- b. *To consider any requests for Dispensation*
None
- c. *Members were reminded that they are required to declare any acceptance of gifts and hospitality.*

45/20 Virtual Meetings

- a. *Addendum to Standing Orders*
- b. *Virtual Meeting Protocols*

It was resolved to adopt the addendum and protocols

46/20 Planning

- a. *Planning Decisions and Responses Report*

The report of all decisions received, and responses submitted by the Clerk under the adopted Scheme of Delegation was noted.

- b. *Applications Received - to consider response*

Clerk: Carole Warner,
Orchard Cottage,
Rowe Lane,
Welshampton,
Ellesmere, SY12 0QB
Tel. 01948 710672 email: clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk



20/02724/FUL Rye Bank Farm, Rye Bank, Wem, SY4 5RA
Erection of general purpose agricultural building for the storage of agricultural equipment and hay

It was resolved to support the application

c. *Planning Enforcement*

The Clerk advised that a formal Stop Notice had been issued on a site within the parish by Shropshire Council.

47/20 Parish Clerk's Report:

The report detailing actions and progression of projects by the Clerk under the adopted Scheme of Delegation was noted.

48/20 Financial Matters:

a. *Balances for information*

Noted

b. *Outstanding accounts*

The following payments were approved:

C Warner	£1,389.68
Kensington House Tax Solutions	£96.25
SALC	£30.00
Playsafely Ltd	£82.20

c. *Financial Reserves Policy*

It was resolved to adopt the policy

d. *Community-Led Housing Grant*

It was resolved to adopt the policy subject to clarifying that Shropshire Council had approved keeping earmarked funds.

e. *2019/20 Year End Accounts*

The Accounts were approved

f. *Internal Audit Report*

The Internal Audit report was received and noted. Clarification on a few points had been forwarded to the Auditor. She was happy to complete the formal report.

g. *Statement of Internal Control*

The prepared Statement was approved.

h. *Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 Part 3*

i. *to consider the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1), complete and sign*

The responses to the Annual Governance Statement were considered, agreed, completed, and would be signed outside the meeting.

ii. *to consider Accounting Statements 2019/20 (Section 2) and sign*

The Accounting Statements 2019/20 were approved and would be signed outside the meeting.

49/20 Parish Council's Action Plan

a. *We Don't Buy Crime/Smartwater*

The Clerk advised the Police had posted kits to residents and the Council now qualified for posters around the parish. The Clerk requested Councillors to forward possible locations within 2 weeks.

b. *Community Public Access Defibrillators (cPADs)*

The Clerk reported that a defibrillator had been used in a recent road traffic accident. Pads and other items used during the incident would be replaced.

The Clerk advised that Lottery funding was now COVID-19 centred and from August primarily to those user-led equality groups. She had applied to a local funding source for defibrillators

for the two outstanding sites, Newtown and Quina Brook phone kiosks but had been unsuccessful. A review of whether the Council could utilise any of its own funds would be carried out in September.

c. Community Speed Watch (CSW)

The Clerk advised Northwood CSW group had suspended monitoring and interest had been expressed for a group in Pepper Street. No forms had been returned.

50/20 Councillor Reports:

a. Parish Councillors

Cllr Staines reported that the Wem Area Climate Change Group met on Mondays at 2pm via Zoom. Other smaller groups met to progress projects. Projects included a Food Trail, Harvest Market and Parish Paths Partnership.

Cllr Wilton-Morgan reported on Wem Economic Forum. The Traffic Working Group had met by Zoom and had contributed to the discussions on the proposed COVID-19 measures. To date these had not been implemented. Cllr Wilton-Morgan asked Cllr Mellings to progress this. The Forum had met mid July and the Clerk had stood down as secretary. It had been agreed to continue with the Forum and seek a new secretary. The Clerk explained the Council had funded her role, in addition to separate funding for the Forum, for the previous 2 years. It had hoped businesses would join the forum, the parish had major employers of town and rural parish residents. This had not been the case and instead more residents' groups had joined. The Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, had considered her time would be better spend progressing projects with more direct impact on the parish residents and businesses.

Cllr Goode had submitted a written report on Newtown Community and Recreation Association. In her absence Cllr Mellings gave a verbal update. The car park extension project was to be actively progressed.

b. Shropshire Councillors:

Councillor Mellings had circulated a written report.

51/20 Parish Matters

None

52/20 Highways

Cllr Staines drew the Council's attention to the incomplete signage following the re-surfacing of the B5063 south of Wem. Road closed signs going back to mid-July were still in place. The poor state of the road surface at the Gate House by Coton Hall cricket ground was reported.

Cllr Mellings agreed to bring these to Shropshire Council's attention.

53/20 Consultation: LGA new model member code of conduct

The Clerk advised the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) had submitted a response specifically relating to town and parish councils.

It was resolved to support the SLCC's response.

54/20 Date of future meeting and to consider agenda items:

1 September 2020

The Chair, Cllr Vernon, declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed.....

Date.....