



# Annual Report

Wem Rural Parish Council  
May 2020 to April 2021

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 Council's Annual Report.

This year was the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic when the business of Wem Rural Parish Council was NOT AS USUAL! The residents of Wem Rural were so lucky because of the environment we live in, though there were cases locally that did impact on the lives of some families. It did alter our whole lives with regard to social contact and affected our local businesses in a way that had previously been unimaginable. Wem Rural Parish Council acted as a point of contact for people at the beginning thanks to our clerk, Carole Warner.

Although initially Parish Council meetings were suspended, The clerk had been delegated authority to keep the routine business of the Council going. After a few months, Councillors got to grips with Zoom and monthly Council meetings resumed.

Although many companies and organisations were severely impacted by lockdown and social distancing, some of our voluntary groups continued their activities. The Council continued with its Community Grant Scheme and in the autumn invited applications. Applications were received and the Council was able to allocate to various organisations – Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery, Edstaston Parish Church, Wem 1st Scouts and Wem Christmas Lights and Festival. A larger grant of £7,099 was allocated to the Newtown Community and Recreation Association. This will help them in their planned refurbishment and updating of safety requirements. It is good that many of our local young children will be able to take advantage of this equipment and will help families socialise in a safe way. The Council agreed to make a donation to Hope House Children's Hospice to compensate for their lack of fund

raising.

Another major project in the area has been taking part at Edstaston Village Hall, our only community building. Grant applications were successful and combined with the Community Led Housing and Wem Parish Council grants the first phase could begin. Contractors and members of the local community have been able to take forward this project in a Covid safe way.

In December 2020, the Council sought residents interest in the national Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme and Shropshire Council Top-Up Scheme. Nearly 150 residents came forward and the Council placed expressions of interest with Openreach and Airband. The Council has been very disappointed in the slow response from these organisations, mainly due to the popularity of the scheme. The Council is also reviewing the 'small print' which is now available. The Council is still progressing the project albeit elements are outside its control.

Many of our other activities and projects were put on hold but the Council is looking forward to making new plans for 2021-2022.

April 2021 was the end of the four year term for Councillors. Two Councillors stood down – Glynis Nicholls and Tim Wilton Morgan. Tim had served on Wem Parish Council for 11 years and had served as a past Chair and Vice Chair. He had been chair of the Wem Economic Forum for 3 years. Tim has moved out of our area so we are sad to lose him.

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

Wem Rural Parish Council  
Orchard Cottage  
Rowe Lane  
Welshampton  
SY12 0QB

For further  
information  
please contact  
Carole Warner on  
01948 710672  
email:  
clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk  
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk



# Annual Financial Report 2020/21

Payments	Actual 2019/20	Actual 2020/21	Budget & Res C/Fwd 2021/22
<b>General Admin</b>			
Clerk Salary / Allowance / Emp NI	£9,307.09	£10,886.32	£12,500.00
Admin Expenses	£1,120.36	£1,121.44	£1,500.00
Audit	£287.00	£296.25	£300.00
Newsletter	£2,961.63	£2,604.46	£2,500.00
Website	£237.75	£197.25	£250.00
Insurance	£595.55	£611.93	£625.00
Subscriptions	£715.56	£797.52	£825.00
Training	£247.00	£206.37	£350.00
<b>Elections</b>	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00
<b>Other</b>			
Community Plan Actions	£9,743.99	£8,305.00	£5,260.00
Neighbourhood Fund	£273.02	£0.00	£0.00
cPADS	£6,190.00	£435.00	£570.00
Grants and Donations	£3,200.00	£4,500.00	£4,000.00
General Power of Competence	£170.00	£0.00	£170.00
Community-Led Housing Grant	£0.00	£25,000.00	£16,230.16
Repairs	£335.00	£0.00	£400.00
Play Equipment Inspection	£68.50	£68.50	£75.00
Edstaston Village Hall	£0.00	£4,533.95	£9,466.05
Community Account	£519.31	£0.00	
<b>Total Excl. VAT</b>	<b>£35,821.76</b>	<b>£59,563.99</b>	<b>£55,321.21</b>
VAT	£2,729.78	£892.21	£750.00
<b>Total Incl. VAT</b>	<b>£38,551.54</b>	<b>£60,456.20</b>	<b>£56,071.21</b>

Receipts	Actual 2019/20	Actual 2020/21	Budget 2021/22
Precept	£26,263.00	£26,788.00	£27,308.00
Interest	£292.83	£100.77	£100.00
VAT Refund	£172.35	£2,729.78	£750.00
National Lottery Grant/Smart Water	£5,780.00	£1,292.28	£0.00
Community Account	£290.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£32,798.18</b>	<b>£30,910.83</b>	<b>£27,158.00</b>
Transfer from/to Reserves	£5,753.36	£29,545.37	£28,913.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>£38,551.54</b>	<b>£60,456.20</b>	<b>£56,071.21</b>

## Balances as at 31 March 2021

### Reconciled Bank Balances

Current Account	£3,721.08
Deposit Account	£17,543.11
Community Account	£290.00
Grant Account	£17,083.21
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>£46,637.40</b>

### Represented by Reserves

Balance as at 1 April 2020	£76,182.77
Less excess receipts over payments	£29,545.37
Balance as at 31 March 2021	<b>£46,637.40</b>

## Reserves Breakdown as at 31 March 2021

### Earmarked Reserves

Legal Fees	£500.00
Website	£500.00
VAS	£2,200.00
Community Plan Actions	£260.00
Bus Shelter VAT	£516.00
Community-Led Housing	£16,230.16
Edstaston Village Hall	£9,466.05
Highways	£1,010.00
Community Account	£290.00
	£30,972.21
Contingency Reserves	£15,665.19
	<b>£46,637.40</b>