



WEM ECONOMIC FORUM

**Minutes of Wem Economic Forum Meeting
Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, Wem
6 December 2018 at 5pm**

Present: Wem Rural Parish Councillor Tim Wilton-Morgan (Chair), Viv Edgar (Dementia Friendly Wem), Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings, Wem Town Councillor Edward Towers, Oliver Richardson (Wem Civic Society) and Simon Thornley (Midcounties Coop Society)

In attendance: Wem Rural Parish Council Clerk Carole Warner (Secretary)

31/18 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

32/18 Apologies

Wem Town Councillor Connie Granger, Sarah Zacharek (Wem Town Hall), Denise Morgan (Soul Bird) Wem Rural Parish Councillor Peter Marsh and Wem Town Council Clerk Penny O'Hagan.

33/18 Notes of Meeting held on 20 September 2018

The notes were agreed.

34/18 Expenditure Voting Members - to consider 1 appointment from Local Businesses (hospitality sector)

Carried forward

35/18 Finances

a. Update

The Secretary advised there had been expenditure as follows during this financial year:

Review Markets – sails and banners £239

Dementia Friendly Wem – supporters packs £127.90

Website hosting and domain name - £41.25

There were funds available of £1,670.85

It was noted expenditure would be needed for:

Emergency Plan - printing of public documents

Dementia Friendly Wem – supporters packs

Promotion of WEF – website hosting and printing of flyers.

b. Request for additional funding

It was agreed that funding was essential to progress some projects and to promote WEF. Projects for 2019 were yet to be discussed but due to Town and Parish Council budget setting time tables a decision about funding should be made.

It was agreed to request that Town and Parish Councils each make a provision of £1,000 in their budgets for 2019/20. Justification for drawing on the funds would be made at the time of request.

36/18 Working Groups – update

a. Traffic

Cllr Towers reported that funding for the HGV signs had been provided by the Town and Parish Councils. There was a meeting of the Working Group the following week during which Drawwell Lane and a one way system around Wem would be reviewed.



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b. Emergency Plan

Cllr Mellings reported that the Town and Parish Councils had approved in principal the Emergency Plan and the next stage of populating the appendices would commence. The project was still on course to launch in the Spring.

c. Review Markets

Sarah Zacharek had reported to the Secretary that she was planning to visit other markets in the New Year. It was noted that the banner at the Station was missing and the sails were not always used.

d. Dementia Friendly Wem

Viv Edgar reported that 6 public sessions had been held since the last WEF meeting averaging 20 people per session. There had also been closed sessions. Businesses who had signed up as Supporters had grown from 11 in September to over 50. Facebook was being used to promote the new Supporters. Viv gave updates on other activities including the Dementia Action Alliance being nominated as one of the Midcounties Coop charity partners. The Steering Group continued to meet on a regular basis. Although 'Dementia Friendly' was a national initiative Shropshire was the most active county. A 'Hall of Fame' event was to be held in the Town Hall in January.

37/18 New Projects

It was agreed that more time was needed to formulate new projects, and this would be discussed again at the next meeting.

a. The 'High Street' including Wem Independent Traders

Denise Morgan had reported to the Secretary that a meeting of traders had been held and late night opening agreed. However, this had not been successful. The Secretary was planning to meet with Denise in the New Year to discuss possible projects.

b. Tourism

There was some support for a range of initiatives under the topic of 'Tourism'. An A6 card promoting events on a 4 monthly basis could also be considered. Oliver Richardson advised a Wem Civic Society talk in January titled 'Heritage Wem' and it will include discussion about the 3 'nodes' for heritage talks in September.

38/18 WEF Promotion

The Secretary advised an article on WEF had been published in the Wemian and that WEF's own website was live. A flyer designed by the Town Hall was circulated. It was hoped to have some printed for distribution in the area.

39/18 Other matters of interest

a. Additional cash machines

Simon Thornley reported on the issues relating to the cash machine at the Coop although it was not managed by the Coop. Simon agreed to circulate contact details so that WEF, Town Council and Rural Council could lobby for an additional machine/more regular fill-ups over weekends. Simon reported that the Post Office was dealing with a greater number of transactions.

b. Photos/Pictures from Barclays Branch

Oliver Richardson reported the historic pictures had been donated to the Civic Society.

40/18 Date, venue and time of next meeting:

Wednesday 6 February 2019, Eckford Suite at 4.30pm