



WEMECONOMICFORUM

**Wem Economic Forum
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, Wem
Monday 8 July 2019
4pm**

- Present:** Wem Rural Parish Councillor Peter Broomhall, Wem Town Councillor Rosemary Dodd, Viv Edgar, Wem Rural Parish Councillor Huw Edwards, Sue Griffiths, Wem Rural Parish Councillor Peter Marsh, Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings, Oliver Richardson, Wem Rural Parish Council Clerk Carole Warner and Wem Rural Parish Councillor Tim Wilton- Morgan
- Apologies:** Wem Town Hall representative Rose Horner, Wem Town Clerk Penny O'Hagan, Simon Thornley, Wem Town Councillor Edward Towers, Wem Town Hall representative Sarah Zacahrek.

1. Chair of WEF

Cllr Tim Wilton-Morgan was appointed Chair

2. Vice Chair of WEF

Cllr Edward Towers was appointed Vice Chair

3. Secretary to WEF

Carole Warner was appointed Secretary

4. Minutes of Meeting 9 April 2019

The Minutes were approved

5. Voting Members for Expenditure

It was agreed that existing voting members should continue in their roles although clarification on whether Phil Glover and Connie Granger wished to continue representing the retail sector would be sought. It was suggested a representative from the Town Hall could become a Voting Member for the hospitality sector.

6. Annual Accounts

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019 were noted.

7. Report on WEF's activities over the last year

The Chair reported on the work of WEF and although the projects on Markets and Traffic had stalledled, great progress had been made with the Emergency Plan and Working Towards Dementia Friendly Wem.

8. To appoint Working Groups and agree Terms of Reference, membership, Chair and Secretary.

It was agreed that the existing Working Groups would continue in their present format. No new Groups were considered necessary at this time.



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9. Traffic Working Group

The refusal of the CIL Local Application for funding of the temporary traffic order to reverse the one-way traffic priorities on Leek Street, Chapel Street and Drawwell Lane was noted with disappointment. It was agreed that a meeting with Shropshire Council's Steve Davenport and David Gradwell should be arranged for early September.

10. Emergency Plan Working Group

Cllr Mellings reported on the official launch on 6 June. There were new members of the Working Group: Huw Edwards and Ruth Williams from Wem Rural Parish Council and Connie Granger from Wem Town Council.

11. Review Markets Working Group

It was agreed members of this Working Group should review its activities.

12. Dementia Friendly Town

Viv Edgar reported that Wem had been designed as 'Working Towards Dementia Friendly Wem'. There were now over 600 Dementia Friends who had completed their awareness training.

13. Heritage Action Zone

Cllr Mellings reported on the progress Shropshire Council had made with drafting an application for funding. The application had been produced with help from other partners. It was agreed that WEF would become a formal partner and write a letter of support.

14. Climate Emergency

It was agreed that WEF would support the Town Council's initiative to make the town carbon neutral by 2030. It was agreed WEF should be represented on any Working Group

15. Economic Development Plan

It was agreed that the existing Plan should continue. Discussion took place on the lack of high street banks and the impact on retail shops. It was noted that the Town Council had been in contact with a building society. Concern was raised that the gate at the White Horse was now open and cars had been seen driving down the narrow passageway.

16. Matters of Interest

It was agreed the future of the Sweet Pea weekend should be reviewed at the next meeting.

17. Date, venue and time of next meeting

Tuesday 24 September in the Roden Suite at 4pm.

Signed..... Date