

**Committee and Date**

Wem and Shawbury  
Local Joint Committee

19<sup>th</sup> February 2013  
7.00 pm

**Item**

**3**

Public

**WEM AND SHAWBURY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE****NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.00 P.M.  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EDINBURGH HOUSE, NEW STREET, WEM, SY4 5DB.**

**Responsible Officer:** Ann Almond

Email: ann.almond@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: (01743) 252363

**Present:****Members of the Committee:**

Pauline Dee	Shropshire Council – Wem
Brian Williams	Shropshire Council – The Meres (Chairman)
Simon Jones	Shropshire Council – Shawbury
Phillip Gillings	Clive Parish Council (substitute)
Tom Wycherley	Grinshill Parish Council
Neil Duxbury	Hadnall Parish Council (substitute)
Bob Parker	Loppington Parish Council (substitute)
Jeff Lester	Moreton Corbet and Lee Brockhurst Parish Council (substitute)
Russell Purslow	Myddle and Broughton Parish Council
John Kennedy	Shawbury Parish Council
Claire Crackett	Stanton upon Hine Heath Parish Council
Len Staines	Wem Rural Parish Council
Edward Towers	Wem Town Council
John Edwards	Weston under Redcastle Parish Council
Sim Beer	Whixall Parish Council

**Co-opted Members of the Committee:**

Gail Moore	RAF Shawbury – Community Development Officer
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**Officers:**

Sue Thomas	Community Action Officer
Ann Almond	Committee Officer

**Also present:**

Ann Hartley	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing
Peter Dunhill	Shropshire Council's Shropshire Way Project Officer
Ian Walshaw	Shropshire Council's Highways Manager

**There were approximately 12 members of the public at the meeting.**

**15. Chairman's Welcome and Introductions (Agenda Item 1)**

- 15.1 The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and each Member of the Committee introduced themselves to those present.

**16. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)**

- 16.1 Apologies for absence were received from:

Chris Mellings	Shropshire Council – Wem
Karen Calder	Shropshire Council – Hodnet
Dewi Davies	Hadnall Parish Council
Jeff Beard	Loppington Parish Council
John James	Moreton Corbet and Lee Brockhurst Parish Council
Julian Hinds	West Mercia Constabulary – Wem

**17. Notes and matters arising (Agenda Item 4)**

- 17.1 **RESOLVED:**  
**That the Notes of the meeting of the Wem and Shawbury Local Joint Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.**

**18. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (Agenda Item 4)**

- 18.1 Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

**19. Partners and Communities Working Together (Agenda Item 5)**

- 19.1 To receive an update from West Mercia Police

The Community Action Officer confirmed that Julian Hinds had submitted his apologies, she then advised he had nothing significant to report and if anyone had any issues, comments or questions, to complete a question sheet including contact details and pass them to the Committee Clerk to forward onto West Mercia Police.

**20. Broadband (Agenda Item 6)**

- 20.1 A written update from Chris Taylor, Shropshire Council's Broadband Manager, had been distributed with the Agenda papers.

**21. Shropshire Council of the Future (Agenda Item 7)**

- 21.1 Councillor Ann Hartley, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, was in attendance for this item and gave a brief overview of the ip&e (Inspiring Partnerships & Enterprise) Group, during which the following points were noted:

- a. Councils had been faced with unprecedented financial cuts, with

Shropshire Council already making savings in the region of £8.3 million;

- b. The Localism Act provided Councils with an opportunity to trade for services, to make a public profit;
- c. Shropshire Council looked into innovative ways that would not affect services to the community and following Shropshire Council approval, the ip&e group was established, which would be a Council owned trading company that would be able to trade for new business;
- d. Lengthy debate had taken place regarding the name which needed to encompass the ethos behind the company;
- e. A local HR expert had created an innovative advert that had been placed in the Sunday Times for the Managing Director to run the company and would be paid £80,000 per annum;
- f. There were 90 applications received that had been shortlisted to 5;
- g. The new Managing Director would be in post by the end of the month;
- h. The Company's registered office would be the Top Floor at the Guildhall, Shrewsbury;
- i. Services to be moved across to ip&e included Shared Services, Finance, Personnel and IT; and potentially Legal Services and Print Services;
- j. Staff would be protected by TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations;
- k. The Company would work in partnership with voluntary and private sectors;
- l. Council had delegated Cabinet Members as shareholders on behalf of Shropshire Council;
- m. It was envisaged that the Company would start to make money during 2013/14 financial; and
- n. The Government were excited about this and had promised a visit by Eric Pickles.

21.2 Questions were raised by those present with the Chairman and Councillor Ann Hartley providing the following responses:

- a. Some services previously provided by Shropshire Council could be provided via ip&e;
- b. Shropshire Council will measure and monitor performance;
- c. Hopeful that payback, plus interest, would be achieved in the first year of trading;
- d. The Chairman of the company was not a paid position;
- e. Any safeguarding children services would remain within Shropshire Council's remit;
- f. Councillor Gwilym Butler was Shropshire Council's relevant Portfolio Holder who championed Town and Parish Councils;
- g. The Parish Charter was being reworked; and
- h. CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money would be devolved to Town and Parish Councils.

- 21.3 The Chairman thanked Councillor Ann Hartley for the information provided and the responses to questions raised, and commented that despite Governments continued reduction in Local Government funding Shropshire Council had made significant savings and had found an innovative way to make a public profit by setting up the trading company, and Shropshire Council Members were determined that Council Tax would remain at the present level.

## **22. Shropshire Way and Walkers are Welcome (Agenda Item 8)**

- 22.1 Peter Dunhill, Shropshire Council's Shropshire Way Project Officer was in attendance for this item and gave a presentation on the Shropshire Way and Walkers are Welcome status, during which the following points were noted:
- a. A number of investors included Pughs, DEFRA and West Midlands Development Programme;
  - b. Provided details of the funding achieved;
  - c. Shropshire Way North Routes were being upgraded and improved;
  - d. Walking Groups within the north included Oswestry Ramblers and Whitchurch Walkers;
  - e. Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Group meet to discuss routes are maintained to attract visitors, including canal paths;
  - f. Walkers are Welcome towns were places that had met six criteria;
  - g. Owen Paterson, Minister for the Natural Environment and Fisheries, would be launching the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership project on 2<sup>nd</sup> November;
  - h. There were some disabled access trails throughout the County, but not enough, work was being undertaken to make Rea Valley a disabled friendly trail; and
  - i. Free health walks took place every Monday from Edinburgh House, from 10.00 a.m. and were suitable for all fitness levels and abilities.
- 22.2 The Chairman thanked Peter Dunhill for the information provided and the responses to questions raised.

## **23. Flooding (Agenda Item 9)**

- 23.1 Ian Walshaw, Shropshire Council's Highways Manager was in attendance for this item and gave a summary of the recent flooding that had affected some of the roadways within this LJC area, during which the following points were noted:
- a. The County had experienced severe flooding;
  - b. Shropshire Council was working reduce flooding issues;
  - c. Drainage systems were antiquated, with some under private property and were difficult to access;
  - d. Shropshire Council had known hot spot areas and these were checked more often than other sites;
  - e. When poor weather conditions are forecast, areas are checked and cleaned before and afterwards;
  - f. Shropshire Council has a strategy in place to monitor and check

- the 1,000 bridges and 3,000 culverts within the county;
- g. When establishing improvement works, consideration has to be given to any protected species – Shropshire has a large population of Great Crested Newts; and
- h. Contact Shropshire Council with details of any areas that suffer from flooding, but this would need to be on the day that it is flooded to ensure that Officer's can check the area and establish the cause.

23.2 The Chairman thanked Ian Walshaw for the information provided and the responses to questions raised.

## **24. Lets Talk Time (Agenda Item 10)**

24.1 There were no public questions or comments raised.

## **25. Funding Applications Summary (Agenda Item 11)**

25.1 The Chairman welcomed applicants to present their funding bids to those present.

25.2 The Committee discussed each application and it was:

**RESOLVED: that the following applications be approved:**

<u>Application</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hadnall Bowling Club	£2,000.00
Loppington Village Hall and Recreation Field Committee	£400.00
Loppington Parochial Church Council*	£700.00
Whixall Social Centre Committee	£435.00
NS Wheelers Ltd (TA) North Salop Wheelers Community Transport project	£2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,535.00</b>
Remaining Budget	£10,585.00

\*Councillor Brian Williams left the room and took no part in the consideration of, or voting on this grant application. Councillor Russell Purslow took the Chair for this item only.

## **26. Future Agenda Items (Agenda Item 12)**

26.1 Suggested Agenda item:

- An update on the Police changes; and
- An update on Tourism within this LJC area.

26.2 Contact Sue Thomas, Community Action Officer, or Ann Almond, Committee Officer with any other suggestions for potential agenda items for consideration at future meetings of this Committee.

**27. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 13)**

- 27.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 7.00 p.m. at Shawbury Village Hall, Church Street, Shawbury, SY4 4NZ.

The Chairman thanked those present for attending.

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

**Signed .....**(Chairman)

**Dated .....**