

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr P. Fairclough



Town Clerk
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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the virtual Full Council Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 9th March 2021 commencing at 7.05 pm.

Present:

Cllr P. Fairclough - Mayor	Cllr D. Roberts	Cllr P. Davis	Cllr S. Hall
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE	Cllr J. Latter	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr. L. Jinks
Cllr A. McClements	Cllr J. Pierce	Cllr L. Carter	Cllr A. Lowe
Cllr S. de Launey	Cllr M. Hosken	Cllr G. Cook	Cllr J. Alvey
Cllr K. Tomlinson	Cllr G. Luter	Cllr U. Ahmed	

In attendance: Rev T. Carter, Andrew Roberts – Deputy Clerk and Karen Roper Town Clerk.

88/20	Housekeeping – Cllr Tomlinson requested everyone remain on mute.
89/20	Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone to this virtual Town Council meeting and invited Rev. Carter to take prayers and comment on item 9 on the agenda, All Saints Church environmentally friendly lights.
90/20	Prayers - Rev Carter took prayers. He then asked members to support the Church lighting project by providing a letter to support their application for funding. Cllr Lowe expressed his strong support for LED lighting. Cllr de Launey proposed to fully support the application and was seconded by Cllr Ahmed, members voted in favour. The Mayor thanked Reverend Carter for all the work he had done during this difficult time. She then invited Councillor Middleton to address the meeting.
91/20	Councillor Middleton – Explained she was Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Champion for Mental Health. She had written strategies and training programmes designed to offer practical advice to support people from all social groups to improve their mental health. Local Councils are being asked to appoint elected members to champion improvements to mental health in their area. 3 Councillors volunteered to act as Health Champions for Wellington, Cllr G Cook volunteered to be a Champion and was endorsed by Cllr A. McClements, Cllr P Davis and Cllr K. Tomlinson both volunteered. Cllr de Launey proposed that the 3 councillors who had volunteered be the Wellington Town Council Champions were accepted, Cllr Ahmed seconded and all members voted in agreement. Cllr Middleton said that the training could be

	available to all members and she would send details to the Clerk. The Mayor thanked her for attending the meeting.
92/20	Apologies – Were received and accepted from Cllr. Brittain due to ill health.
93/20	Declarations of Interest – None were received at this point.
94/20	To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9th February 2021 - Cllr Tomlinson proposed acceptance of the minutes and was seconded by Cllr Morris – Jones MBE, members voted unanimously to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.
95/20	<p>Matters Arising –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Wilson – The Clerk said that Mr Wilson had asked her to thank the Town Council for allowing him to present and said he was available to answer any questions. • Speed Indicator Device – The Clerk reported that the units had remained in place following the comments at the last meeting, that a true indication of speed and traffic levels would only be possible once the schools returned. An order for additional sockets and posts had been placed, there was 6 – 8 weeks lead time for installation. • Events and Communications Committee – Cllr Roberts had commented at the last meeting, that the Events and Communications Committee was not using Facebook for their meetings. Cllr Davis had responded that he thought all but one meeting had been held on Facebook. Cllr Roberts said she had checked and found that the meetings were still not being aired on Facebook. There was some debate and Cllr Carter asked the Clerk to circulate the information stating the legal duty to open meetings to the public. Cllr Davis said he was disappointed at some of the comments made, all meetings are open and transparent and this was a misunderstanding which would be rectified at the next meeting. Cllr de Launey said we have a legal duty to hold open meetings, Cllr Morris-Jones agreed. Cllr Luter said not everyone has access to Facebook and suggested we should be looking at improving all our communications.
96/20	<p>To receive and note the minutes of the following Wellington Town Council Committees.</p> <p>a) Policy and Resources (P&R) Committee dated 2nd March 2021 – Cllr de Launey highlighted the following points from the minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Street – Cllr de Launey said the report from consultants had now been received and the contents would be considered by T&W Officers. Cllr Jinks raised concerns around Church Street being closed. Cllr de Launey said the report would look at traffic flow around the whole area. Cllr Roberts said that traffic tries to turn into Church Street from Vineyard Road and there are no diversion signs. Cllr de Launey said he thought there were and this requires further investigation. • Tribute to George Evans – Cllr de Launey said the rock had been found but heavy equipment would be needed to move it and the ground was currently too wet. Cllr Roberts said the stone had been there a long time and in addition to herself, she knew other people had fond memories of it and would be sorry to see it moved. She acknowledged the stone was covered by undergrowth and requested this be cut down and it be bought back into use

	<p>as a seat. Cllr Roberts also felt that the volunteers who looked after the Peace garden should be consulted when considering placement of a memorial. She understood that signage in the Peace Garden would be improved and suggested this may be enough of a tribute. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said the rock is part of the drainage system for the field and may cause a pond to form if it is moved and he commented that we should look at this very carefully. Cllr Luter agreed he would not like to see the rock moved as it was a meeting place for children in the area when he was growing up. Cllr de Launey said would be further discussion at P&R and thanked Cllr Roberts for raising the issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning Power to Full Council – Cllr de Launey reported that P&R had agreed that power delegated from Full Council would be returned at the Annual General Meeting in May.
b)	<p>Planning Committee 17th February 2021 – Chairman, Cllr Luter presented the minutes. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE asked for clarification on what was meant by ‘26 market dwellings’, Cllr Carter said these 26 dwellings will be available for market rent.</p>
c)	<p>Events and Communications Committee Meeting held on 23rd February 2021 – Cllr Davis presented the minutes. Members requested the minutes were uploaded to the website promptly. The Mayor said that she recognised that this committee was working under difficult circumstances because of the Covid restrictions.</p>
d)	<p>Wellington Festival Working Group held 3rd March 2021 – Cllr Roberts asked if the meeting was quorate as there were only 2 councillors present. Cllr Lowe said this is a small working group and is not subject to the restrictions of council committees. Cllr Davis said he attends these meetings in an ex-officio capacity only and he is noted in the apologies which he requested be corrected in the minutes. Responding to questions, Cllr Lowe said that there were 3 Councillors on the working group and if other Councillors would like to join they would be welcome. Cllr de Launey said the working group could invite people in addition to councillors to help. Cllr Lowe explained people had been consulted on an as and when basis, the group had reached out to people as and when they needed support and there were many volunteers involved. Cllr Roberts said people need to be involved to make the Festival successful, Cllr Alvey agreed. Cllr Pierce said it has been a lot of hard work to organise the free of charge online events for the 25th year of the festival. Cllr Davis said the small group had moved mountains in his view to deliver a virtual festival under very difficult circumstances. Cllr Lowe asked everyone to support the festival in May. Information was in the Wellington Magazine which was being distributed to all households from 15th March and available on the Town Council website.</p>
97/20	<p>Climate Change Working Group Meeting 4th March 2021– The notes had been circulated this evening and there were no questions. Cllr Lowe introduced the following resolutions</p> <p>a) <i>Wellington Town Council resolved to support Wellington to achieve Plastics Free Community status and to remove all single use plastics from its premises</i> – Cllr Tomlinson said she wholeheartedly supported this. Cllr Lowe said that this is a long and arduous journey which will need to be achieved step by step. A working group will need to be formed to promote, lobby and lead the call to small businesses to remove single use plastic items from use such as</p>

	<p>plastic straws, cups and lids. Cllr Davis said residents would be requested to support this as well. Cllr Tomlinson said the larger businesses should be targeted as well and she would be willing to champion the bigger organisations. The resolution was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Lowe, he was seconded by Cllr Tomlinson and all members voted in favour.</p> <p>b) Wellington Town Council to pledge to support Zero Carbon Shropshire – Cllr Lowe reminded members that the town council received the presentation from Allan Wilson in February. Zero Carbon Shropshire works across the whole of Shropshire and communicates and engages with other groups. Cllr Davis was unclear about the benefit to the Town Council, Cllr Lowe explained how the organisation works. Cllr Tomlinson agreed this should be supported for the future of the planet. Cllr Lowe proposed acceptance, Cllr Roberts 2nd his proposal and all members voted in favour.</p> <p>c) Wellington Town Council resolves to support the Climate Ecological Emergency Bill – Cllr Gorse explained she felt we are overreaching ourselves and resources are scarce so suggested this item is deferred. Cllr Lowe explained the Bill was due for its second reading on 26th March and a lobbying group was asking for support from Wellington Town Council to back this bill. Cllr Roberts commented she would abstain as it is political lobbying and we only know one side of the argument. Cllr Davis asked for clarification if this is a Telford & Wrekin Council initiative. Cllr Lowe said it was not a request from the Borough it is communication from a group of people formed as a lobbying group. Cllr Hosken agreed with Cllrs Gorse and Roberts both sides of the arguments need to be heard before it can be supported. Members felt they needed further information, which would be circulated.</p>
98/20	Adoption of the Member Officer Protocol – Councillor Hosken proposed adoption of the protocol, he was seconded by Cllr Ahmed and members voted in favour.
99/20	Communications Strategy and Protocol – The Clerk had circulated this document to all members and asked members to forward comments via email.
100/20	Neighbourhood Planning Seminar 15th March – Cllrs Tomlinson and Roberts had booked to attend and she hoped the Council would reconsider its position to have a neighbourhood plan.
101/20	To Agree Annual Town Assembly Meeting as 5th May - Cllr de Launey proposed to hold the Annual Town Assembly Meeting on 5 th May, he was seconded by Cllr Ahmed and members voted in favour.
102/20	Awards for the Annual Meeting – The Mayor said it had been a difficult time to be Mayor as everything had needed to be held online. She asked members to email the Clerk with nominations for awards to be made at the Annual Meeting.
103/20	The next virtual meeting date was agreed as 7.00pm on Tuesday 13TH April 2021

Chairman.....13th April 2021