

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Lesley Street



Town Clerk
HOWARD R PERKINS
LL.B, I.C.S.A, Dip LG.
Civic Offices, Larkin Way
Tan Bank, Wellington
Telford TF1 1LX
Tel: 01952 567697
Fax: 01952 567690

Email: wellingtontowncouncil@telford.gov.uk
www.wellington-shropshire.gov.uk

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes for the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on **Tuesday, 8th November 2011** commencing 7:00pm.

Present:

Cllr Mrs L Street, Mayor	Cllr F Burns, Deputy Mayor
Cllr R Aveley	Cllr Mrs C Brittain
Cllr Graham Cook	Cllr S deLauney
Cllr P Fairclough	Cllr A Forster
Cllr M Hosken	Cllr C Lewis
Cllr P McCarthy	Cllr P Morris-Jones
Cllr R Perkins	Cllr G Riley
Cllr Mrs D Roberts	Cllr B Tillotson

In attendance:

- Four members of the public
- Howard Perkins, Town Clerk
- Anni B Potts, Assistant to the Town Clerk
- Mr Chris Fry (arrived during Mr Bell's presentation)

128/11 Prayers

The Reverend Kirby gave a short reading and said prayers.

129/11 Introduction and welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

130/11 Apologies

Cllr Mrs A McClements: Borough Council meeting
Cllr R Sloan: Borough Council meeting
Cllr Mrs J Gorse: family commitment
Cllr Mrs K Tomlinson: Borough Council meeting
Cllr D Chaplin: illness
Apologies accepted.

131/11 Declarations of Interest

Members only need declare any interest they may have in items of business in this Agenda.
Cllr P McCarthy declared an interest for the Planning Committee meeting of 24th October 2011, Minute 96/11 Application TWC/2011/0845.
No other declarations of interest were received.

132/11 To receive a presentation from David Bell and Keith Harris on the gritting of roads and highway matters for winter, and car parking control

- **MR DAVID BELL:** PUBLIC REALM MANAGER OF TELFORD & WREKIN spoke regarding Winter Maintenance. He explained that the Borough Council gritted all the main routes

and town centres but could not grit all the roads and footpaths. He also spoke of plans to extend the snow wardens scheme and supply grit, shovels and hi-visibility vests to help those identified by the community as being in need (for which they were seeking volunteers).

- **CLLR BURNS** requested more details regarding who would move the grit etc. Mr Bell stated that it would be a local initiative in which the Town Council would identify the areas in need. Telford & Wrekin, in the meantime, would compile a register, assess public liability and address some local issues. They were suggesting there would be one snow warden per ward.
- **CLLR HOSKEN** suggested increasing the area covered by the grit lorries to include high risk areas and accident black spots, such as that at the top of Ercall Lane (the bridge over the motorway). Mr Bell stated that the gritting routes had been reviewed for this year but that Telford & Wrekin did have a policy in place regarding the gritting of roads that were not on defined routes. Additional grit bins were also being sited at the request of the Town Council.
- **CLLR FAIRCLOUGH** asked about the reporting of difficult routes outside the parish of Wellington. Mr Bell suggested she contact him formally.
- **CLLR MORRIS-JONES** asked if consideration would be given to clearing pavements which had remained dangerous long after the roads had been cleared last year. Mr Bell stated they did deal with ad-hoc scenarios, but it would not be possible to grit all the pavements in the parish of Wellington.
- **MR KEITH HARRIS** FROM THE TRANSPORT POLICY TEAM OF TELFORD & WREKIN then spoke about the car parking in Wellington. He explained he had recently taken over from Ellie Gormley and was therefore still finding his feet, so to speak. He explained the intention was to have the following car parks as short-stay car parks with a three hour limit.
 - Swimming Pool, West
 - Swimming Pool, East
 - Nailors Row
 - Victoria Road, North

It was being proposed the remainder would be long-stay car parks and he reiterated that the balance needed to be right between parking for local workers and shoppers. Borough staff moving into the new Civic Offices were being encouraged to park sensibly, use car sharing schemes, bus and cycles as alternative transport means. Mr Harris stated that once in place, the car parking would be reviewed, after about six months, to ensure it was working properly.

- **CLLR MORRIS-JONES** believed that the Belmont car park should be short-stay and that it would be easier to change a short-stay car park to a long-stay one, than the other way around, if this proved to be necessary. He also suggested permits for some people who needed longer stay at that car park such as those working at the Belmont Centre. He also reiterated the need for on-street parking to be addressed.
- **CLLR AVELEY** agreed with Cllr Morris-Jones and pointed out that the Borough Council did not seem to have made a provision for the 200+ extra workers coming to the Civic Centre. Car parking had, in fact, been eroded over the years.
- **CLLR RILEY** agreed with Cllr Morris-Jones and Cllr Aveley and expressed further concern that with the shops becoming more populated, the town needed car parking for shoppers. He also mentioned the problem of trading on the highway in New Street.
- **CLLR BURNS** asked about the policing of and the notification to the public of the changes. He also stated that he thought Belmont should be long-stay.
- **CLLR LEWIS** agreed with Cllr Burns' thinking of the organisations that used the Belmont and needed it as a long-stay car park.
- **CLLR FORSTER** asked about the monitoring of cars in short-stay car parks, with particular reference to the Health Centre car parking.
- **CLLR RILEY** expressed his disappointment that it had been left to this late stage.

Mr Harris then responded:

- Telford & Wrekin employed a company to monitor the car parks and thus a system was already in place for this. However, he reminded Councillors that it would cost more to enforce the new restrictions.

Cllr Riley then asked what would happen if the Town Council rejected the plans tonight.

Mr Harris continued his responses:

- He confirmed that the Town Council and Telford & Wrekin were agreed in principle. It was only to allocation of short- and long-stay to the car parks that was the issue.

Cllr Aveley then asked about the car park in Grooms Alley, which Aldi used to monitor.

Mr Harris continued his responses:

- The Grooms Alley car park, he believed, was not Council maintained, but agreed to check that point.
- He agreed that signage regarding parking restrictions needed improving in the car parks and that this would be done (particularly in the short-stay car parks).
- With regard to expanding the number of car parks in the town, this would cost money and suitable locations were not an issue. Cllr Roberts suggested the old bus station in Queen Street, but this would probably be developed as residential properties.
- Regarding Belmont, that was destined to be long-stay at the moment and Mr Harris pointed out that some Councillors had supported this and some were against. Thus there were clearly two lines of thought.
- The Mayor asked about the provision of coach parking, particularly for the swimming baths. Mr Harris confirmed he was unaware of any provision but would investigate further.
- Cllr Brittain asked about the possibility of a multi-storey car park at the train station, but this land was only leased by the Borough Council from Network Rail and the lease expired in 2013.
- Regarding trading on the highway, Telford & Wrekin would be writing to all shopkeepers to remind them of the restrictions.
- With regard to informing the public, the changes would be advertised twenty-one days beforehand.
- Mr Harris then promised to reply in writing to the Clerk's last letter.

133/11 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2011

Proposed: Cllr Tillotson, seconded: Cllr Morris-Jones and RESOLVED that these be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

134/11 Matters arising from those minutes:

- **Minute 123/11: David Wright & Mark Pritchard: NALC opportunity to lobby:** The Clerk reported that responses had been received from both MP's confirming they had written to the Minister for Local Government and Secretary of State respectively and were awaiting responses.
- **Minute 125/11: Proposition:** A copy of the reply from West Mercia Police was provided to each Councillor.

135/11 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.

136/11 Planning Committee

- Cllr Tillotson presented the minutes of the meeting of **10th October 2011**. Proposed: Cllr Tillotson, seconded: Cllr Brittain, and RESOLVED that the minutes be received and action taken be endorsed.

Matters arising from those minutes

None.

- Cllr Tillotson presented the minutes of the meeting of **24th October 2011**. Proposed: Cllr Tillotson, seconded: Cllr Brittain, and RESOLVED that the minutes be received and action taken be endorsed.

Matters arising from those minutes

None.

- Cllr Tillotson presented the minutes of the meeting of **31st October 2011**. Proposed: Cllr Tillotson, seconded: Cllr Brittain, and RESOLVED that the minutes be received and action taken be endorsed.

Matters arising from those minutes

Cllr Hosken stated that he felt the plans needed further consideration by Telford & Wrekin Council. He was pleased to hear this might be done.

137/11 Promotions & Liaison Committee

Cllr Morris-Jones presented the minutes of the meeting of 13th October 2011.

Proposed: Cllr Morris-Jones, seconded: Cllr Roberts and RESOLVED that the minutes be received and action taken be endorsed.

Matters arising from those minutes

MINUTE 51/11 OLYMPIAN EVENT: The Town Manager reported the Borough Towns initiative may still have some money available and that he intended to put in a bid. It would not require match funding if successful, but with time being of the essence he would apply. Noted and agreed.

WELLINGTON CARNIVAL: Cllr Morris-Jones confirmed the Carnival Committee would be applying for a grant for the 2012 carnival which would have an Olympian theme next year.

138/11 Policy & Resources Committee

Cllr deLauney presented the minutes of the meeting of 1st November 2011.

Proposed: Cllr deLauney, seconded: Cllr Tillotson, and RESOLVED that the minutes be received, the action taken be endorsed and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Matters arising from those minutes

72/11 BRACKETS FOR FLORAL DISPLAYS: The Clerk confirmed that the poles were being delivered the next day.

Cllr Hosken proposed and Cllr Aveyley seconded a motion that a grit bin be added to the list for Simon Close at a cost of £140. This was agreed unanimously.

139/11 Personnel Sub-Committee

Cllr deLauney presented the minutes of the meeting of 1st November 2011.

Proposed: Cllr deLauney, seconded: Cllr Tillotson and RESOLVED that the minutes be received, action taken be endorsed and the recommendations be approved, thirteen members voting in favour, one member against and one abstaining.

Matters arising from those minutes

Cllr Morris-Jones suggested that the administration of the Town Council's side should be undertaken by the Town Council and not Telford & Wrekin Council. He asked if the Promotions and Liaison Committee could review this point.

Cllr deLauney then gave his apologies and left the meeting.

140/11 To receive relevant correspondence:

- **Allan Frost:** A copy of Mr Frost's letter had been sent to all Councillors.
- **Morrison's:** had finally responded to the letter asking them to consider purchasing a Christmas Tree for Market Square this year and they had declined on the basis that whilst supporting their local communities was important to them, they had adopted a national charity. The Town Council expressed their grave disappointment at this.
- **Local Nature Reserve:** A copy of the email received via Mr Rob Jevons from Mr Dave Hanley confirming that Mr Jevons could continue to work on the Dothill project was distributed to all Councillors. The news was received warmly.
- Thank you letters regarding **Grants** had been received from:
 - Mark's Pit Stop
 - Telford Sea Cadets
 - Vitalise
 - Multiple Sclerosis Society
 - Wrekin Arts Photographic Club
 - Listen & Care

- St Patrick's Parish
- 1st Wellington Girls' Brigade

141/11 To receive and approve the report of the Town Manager

- A copy of the Mr Fry's report (Appendix A) was distributed to all Councillors. Mr Fry also reported that Telford & Wrekin had appointed an Economic Development Officer, Ms Lucy Corbett with whom he had made contact. Interestingly, she had been a Markets Officer, which may prove useful with regard to the Market, with whom Mr Fry was still trying to make contact and form lines of communication.
- Cllr Fairclough reported that the Localism Bill would allow town councils to trade (for instance run markets etc) and that the Council should consider the scope of this.

142/11 To receive a report from our representative on the Wellington Town Partnership

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the AGM of the Tourism Partnership and gave a short report. She spoke of a new management board being set up next year and suggested the Town Council should see how they could utilise this. She also reported that the website was nearly complete.

143/11 To receive urgent matters (for information only)

- The Clerk reported that although the Olympic flame would be reaching Telford next year, it would not be coming to Wellington. Town Councillors were very disappointed with this, especially bearing in mind Wellington's links to William Penny-Brooks and asked the Clerk to write to Telford & Wrekin Council expressing this disappointment.
- The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to three items copied to them:
 - BBC Trust service of BBC Local Radio, Public Consultation
 - Telford & Wrekin Council Budget Strategy letter
 - Email regarding the proposals for new Telford & Wrekin and Bridgnorth constituencies.
- Cllr Riley proposed, Cllr Morris-Jones seconded and it was RESOLVED Telford & Wrekin Council be requested, in writing, to accede to the wishes of the Town Council in the matter of the control of off-street parking since these wishes represented the views of many local people and community groups (minute 132/11 herein refers).

144/11 To agree the date of the next meeting

The date for the next meeting was agreed as **13th December 2011**

Signed
13th December 2011