Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Lesley Street

Town Clerk
HOWARD R PERKINS
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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes for the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on **Tuesday, 10th January 2012** commencing 7:00pm.

Present:
Cllr Mrs L Street, Mayor
Cllr R Aveley
Cllr D Chaplin
Cllr S deLauney
Cllr A Forster
Cllr M Hosken
Cllr P McCarthy
Cllr P Morris-Jones
Cllr G Riley
Cllr B Tillotson
Cllr F Burns, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Mrs C Brittain
Cllr Graham Cook
Cllr P Fairclough
Cllr J Gorse
Cllr C Lewis
Cllr Mrs A McClements
Cllr R Perkins
Cllr Mrs D Roberts
Cllr Mrs K Tomlinson
Five members of the public

In attendance:
Howard Perkins, Town Clerk
Anni B Potts, Assistant to the Town Clerk

159/11 Prayers
The Reverend Kirby gave a short reading and said prayers.

160/11 Introduction and welcome
The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

161/11 Apologies
Cllr R Sloan – holiday. Apologies accepted.

162/11 Declarations of Interest
Members only need declare any interest they may have in items of business in this Agenda.
Cllr Tillotson and Cllr Chaplin—Admaston House
Cllr Lewis—The Twinning Committee and Belmont Hall
No other declarations of interest were received.

163/11 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2011
Proposed: Cllr Gorse, seconded: Cllr Roberts, and RESOLVED that these be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

164/11 Matters arising from those minutes:

i) **MINUTE 152/11 (I): VISIT OF CLLR ARNOLD ENGLAND:** The Clerk reported that Cllr England had sent his apologies for this meeting but would attend the February meeting to discuss this item.

ii) **MINUTE 157/11:** The Clerk reported that Nova training would now be running their event on 27th January 2012.

165/11 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.

Planning Committee

Cllr Gorse presented the minutes of the meeting of **19th December 2011**.
Proposed: Cllr Gorse, seconded: Cllr Roberts, and RESOLVED that the minutes be received and action taken be endorsed.
Matters arising from those minutes: None.

Cllr Gorse presented the minutes of the meeting of **3rd January 2012**.
Proposed: Cllr Gorse, seconded: Cllr Roberts, and RESOLVED that the minutes be received and action taken be endorsed.
Matters arising from those minutes: Cllrs Hosken and Aveley asked if the Clerk could write to the new owners of Rasputin's and request they consider reinstating the historical name of the public house—*The Raven*. This was agreed unanimously.

Policy & Resources Committee

Cllr deLauney presented the minutes of the meeting of **3rd January 2012**.
Proposed: Cllr deLauney, seconded: Cllr Riley, and RESOLVED that minutes 94/11-107/11 be received, the action taken be endorsed and recommendations approved. Minute 108/11 would be dealt with separately under Item 10 of the Agenda.
Matters arising from those minutes:

i) **MINUTE 103/11-105/11 'YOUR MONEY, YOUR PROJECTS':** A discussion took place regarding the nature of this funding which had not been budgeted for. Cllr deLauney reiterated that the granting of this funding was not to be construed as a precedent for future years. It had been supported by the Policy & Resources Committee because the causes it addressed were worthy ones and many of these could have been applied for the money under the the Town Council's Minor Grants Application Scheme.

166/11 To receive relevant correspondence:
None.

167/11 Localism Act 2011
Details regarding this item had been distributed to members prior to the meeting. The Clerk informed Councillors a seminar was being held by the Borough Council on 14th February 2012 with NALC in attendance. He asked if members would like to attend. Seven members confirmed they would like to attend.

168/11 To approve the Town Council budget for 2012/2013 and to levy a precept
Cllr deLauney gave an overview of the budget proposals paying particular attention to variances between this and the previous year's budget. Cllr deLauney then proposed and Cllr Riley seconded that the budget be adopted and recommendations approved.

Cllr Morris-Jones expressed his concern that the budget had not presented to the Full Council before this late date, giving them little time to discuss the matter. He presented the Council with an alternative budget and proposed an amendment to Cllr deLauney's proposal, seconded by Cllr Chaplin, that this budget be considered. A vote was taken, seven members voting in favour and twelve against. The amendment was thereby lost

The original proposal still standing, a vote was taken. Twelve members voted in favour of adopting the budget, five against and one abstention from Cllr Hosken on the basis that he had not been present at the meeting to comment. The motion was therefore carried and the budget (copy attached to the signed minutes) approved and accepted resulting in:

i) this Council raising a precept of £299,900 against a forecast expenditure of £344,900 for 2012/2013 and
ii) this Council making use of £45,000 from the reserves of 2011/2012 to offset the shortfall between the anticipated expenditure and the precept for 2012/2013.

169/11 To receive a report from our representative on the Wellington Town Partnership

Cllr Roberts distributed a copy of her report to all Councillors at the meeting. A debate ensued regarding the future of the Partnership and whether it had served its purpose. After an extensive discussion it was summarised that although the Town Partnership may well have finished the work it could undertake in the physical regeneration of the Town, there was still much to be done in cultural regeneration. In relation to tourism, some of this was the work to be carried out by the Visitor Economy Group, spearheaded by the Wellington Town Partnership. It was agreed the report be received and approved.

170/11 To receive a report from our representatives on the Association of Local Councils

Cllr Perkins reported that no further meetings had been held.

171/11 To receive urgent matters (for information only)

i) Cllr Hosken raised the matter regarding traders in the town receiving a letter from Telford & Wrekin Council regarding trading on the highway and its aggressive nature. A discussion began and Cllr Tomlinson expressed her wish to withdraw from the meeting as she was a member of the Licensing Committee. However, she was asked by the Chair to remain. The Clerk explained the nature of the letter which lacked information about how traders could apply for a licence. He had already drawn Telford & Wrekin Council's attention to this omission and was hoping they would rectify this. To date, however, this had not happened. It was proposed by Cllr Hosken that the Clerk write to Telford & Wrekin Council to encourage them to do this and the Council were in unanimous agreement.

ii) Cllr McCarthy asked about vehicles parking on the highway, which was also an obstruction, and the Clerk explained that this was not a Licensing matter but could be a criminal one for the Police to address.

172/11 To agree the date of the next meeting

The date for the next meeting was agreed as **14th February 2012**.

Signed ……..
14th February 2012