

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Philip Morris-Jones MBE



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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 9th February 2016, starting at 7.05pm.

Present:

Cllr P Morris-Jones, Mayor	
Cllr D Allen	Cllr M Hosken
Cllr S Fikeis	Cllr J Alvey
Cllr G Cook	Cllr C Brittain
Cllr S deLauney	Cllr S Hall
Cllr L Carter	Cllr J Gorse
Cllr D Roberts	Cllr R Perkins
Cllr P Fairclough	Cllr A Lowe
Cllr A McClements	Cllr Burns
Cllr C Mason-Morris	Cllr P McCarthy

In attendance: - John Grice from All Saints Church, Karen Roper, Town Clerk, Shropshire Star representative and 4 members of the public.

128/15 7.00pm Introduction and Welcome - The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Reverend John Grice to lead the prayers.

129/15 Presentation - Literary Festival - The Mayor invited Cllr Fairclough to make a presentation of the Crest shield to Mr. P. Boulter. Cllr Fairclough thanked Peter for all his hard work. Mr Boulter thanked Councillors corporately and individually for delivering the Festival year after year and commented that it is now recognised as a prestigious event bringing many people from far and wide into the Town.

7.09pm Cllr McCarthy joined the meeting

130/15 The Destination Programme Team – Launching the Visitor Economy Forum–
The Mayor introduced Charlotte Cain, Destination Programme Team Leader for Telford and Wrekin who gave a brief overview of the work of her team whose remit is to support local business and develop visitor information. A new website is due to be launched in March which will have information and links to the Town Council website. Cllr Burns said the 2020 Vision Report gives a lead to how the Town would like to develop into the future. Members suggested that Charlotte works with the Promotions Committee, Team Wellington, Wellington Chamber of Commerce and LA 21 groups to identify the tourism offer for the Town. Cllr McClements suggested there should be links with Good2Great who had recently obtained funding from the Pride in Your High Street Fund. Cllr Roberts said that the approach from the Programme Team seems more inclusive than before and Members

confirmed their support for the project. The Mayor thanked Charlotte for her presentation and the Clerk agreed to send out her power point presentation by email.

7.45pm Charlotte Cain and John Grice left the meeting.

131/15 Apologies for Absence – Were received and noted from: Cllr L Tillotson and Cllr K Tomlinson, unable to attend due to illness.

132/15 Declarations of Interest – Members only need declare any interest they may have in items of business on this Agenda. None were declared.

133/15 The Mayor gave the following report of his activities since the last meeting

Date 2016	Event attended
22 nd January	Shrewsbury Mayors Charity Ball
7 th February	Shrewsbury Mayors Civic Service

The Mayor commented that he had attended 69 events so far in addition to meetings.

134/15 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2016

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Hosken seconded by Cllr Allen and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2016 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record.

135/15 Matters arising from those minutes:

- **Pride in Your High Street** - Cllr Carter expressed his disappointment relating to the failure of the Town Councils' bids, both Cllr McClements and himself had requested feedback. Successful bids were from a Bridgnorth based company called Good2Great, who were proposing to work with retailers to help develop local businesses. H2A were also successful with their bid for a mural trail. Cllr Hosken asked how the judging panel was chosen; Cllr Carter said he would find out. Cllr Carter said that other areas had employed professional bid writers to access the money on a payment by results basis and Wellington should consider this option in the future.
Cllr Roberts asked who Good2Great were, Cllr deLauney said they had been invited to the Vision 2020 Management Board meeting taking place on 1st March. Cllrs' McClements, Carter and deLauney had negotiated with the Borough to agree that the remaining £66,000 funds are ring fenced for Wellington and would be administered through the Vision 2020 Project Board. Cllr Roberts asked if the Board have their own bank account. Cllr deLauney said no but explained how he felt the process would work.
- **Visioning Event Update** – The Clerk said that the facilitator had pulled out for personal reasons and further enquiries were being made.
- **Website Update** – The Clerk said that work continues on the website and members were invited to forward suggestions for improvements.

136/15 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein. The Mayor requested the order of committee reports to be varied on the agenda so the Policy and Resources Committee report be taken first. Members agreed.

- **Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr deLauney, seconded Cllr Gorse, and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 2nd February 2016 at 7.00pm be received and action taken be endorsed.

Cllr deLauney gave the following report from the Policy and Resources Meeting of 2nd February 2016

- **Bowring** – All the outstanding work is now completed including the installation of hand dryers. Tenders are being drawn up for the Café lease. The Borough have indicated they would not be planting the bowling green garden area after this financial year and the Council will need to consider future arrangements. Cllr Hosken expressed disappointment that the Borough were taking away the floral borders.
- **PET Team** – Cllr deLauney gave an overview of litter service provision and sweeper arrangements. It has been indicated that Borough budget cuts will affect current service provision. The Policy and Resources committee have supported work towards creation of a Wellington Town Council Controlled PET team. Currently attention is being given to establish appropriate cover in case of illness and holidays and provision of a suitable vehicle. Recommendations will come to the next meeting of Full Council.
- **Office Accommodation** – Cllr deLauney reported he had approached Telford and Wrekin to relocate the Town Council Offices to the lower end of the Library having the benefits of :
 - **Direct access on to Walker Street**
 - **Being more available to electors**
 - **A larger replacement room for Lesley's Room**
 - **A like for like equivalent for the Council Chamber**
 - **Moving away from the noise**
 - **Offering more space**Negotiations were continuing to develop a leasing arrangement. Cllr Burns said he thought the idea was imaginative and would enable the Council to solve many of the current difficulties. He commented Community Groups had requested an information point which he felt would develop stronger links with the town and this proposal offered a solution. He hoped that this idea would move ahead quickly.
- **PCSO's Update** - The Borough intends to cut funding for their 4 PCSO's who currently control parking within the town. Therefore if the Council wishes the service to continue it will need to consider future funding arrangements.
- **Police Vehicle** - Cllr Hosken suggested the money given towards the running of a Police Vehicle is used to plant the Bowring Park.
- **ICT Working Group** – The group is meeting tomorrow and has identified a maximum spend of £4,500 on equipment. Recommendations identifying cost benefit savings will be made to the March P&R Committee and Full Council, if agreed, training will be offered during April to go live in May.
- **Project Board** – Cllr deLauney said the Committee had proposed to continue with the up to £15,000 contribution towards the Project Board and the Borough have agreed to joint fund for this year. Cllr Hosken asked for the minutes of the project board meetings to be distributed to all Councillors. Cllr deLauney advised that some of the items dealt with by this Board are commercially sensitive and therefore the

decision had been taken previously to report to Full Council through the P&R committee structure. Cllr Roberts said that sometimes more information is needed and Cllr deLauney said he would take this comment on board and would endeavour to enhance reporting within the P&R minutes. Cllr Gorse said that all members can attend P&R meetings, Cllr deLauney said he would be available to personally answer any questions from any member.

- **Wellington Festival Funding** – An application is being worked on for Pride in Your High Street funding and will go to the next Project Board.

Cllr deLauney formally moved the minutes and these were agreed unanimously by members.

8.04pm Cllrs deLauney, Carter and McClements left the meeting

137/15 Community Group Coffee Evening 23rd February 2016 –

Cllr Burns invited members to attend this meeting starting at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber. He reminded everyone these events are not Council meetings but an opportunity for community groups to network. Cllr Roberts said in the past the Library has always had a list of organisations and they used to keep this up to date and suggested that this list be used to contact the groups. The Clerk said she would email the invitation letter to members and confirmed that the website had an area that was being developed for community groups. Cllr Roberts expressed concern that the Councils' grant award form had been included with the invitation which could give the impression that attendees would always be given a grant. Cllr Burns said this was not meant to be the case and grants would be advertised in the usual way. Cllr Perkins said he found the last meeting useful to make contact with local groups.

138/15 Planning Committee.

Planning Committee Minutes were presented by Cllr Perkins 2nd by Cllr Gorse for the meeting held on 13th January 2016. Cllr Perkins commented that application TWC/2015/1020 13 Market Square was in line with Wellington 2020 Vision report.

Minutes of 27th January 2016 were proposed by Cllr Perkins and 2nd by Cllr J. Alvey. Cllr Burns said that the Borough Council has produced a wonderful report about green spaces and application TWC/2015/0836 has been refused by the committee because it is situated within the green space.

Cllr Mason-Morris said the next meeting date on the minutes of 27th January was incorrect.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of 13th and 27th January are received and action taken be endorsed.

139/15 Wellington Festival Committee

Cllr Mason Morris moved the minutes for the meeting held on 14th January 2016 these were seconded by Cllr Allen. Cllr Lowe asked why events are not charged for. Cllr Fairclough explained this discussion is had at most meetings and related to the fact that venues are given free of charge due to the fact that tickets are free. Cllr Alvey suggested that a deal could be explored with the venues as extra funding is needed to run, improve and expand the festival. Cllr Fairclough thanked Cllr Mason- Morris for all her help, support and fresh approach to the Festival. Cllrs Burns and Allen asked that the charging for events issue is put on the Festival Committees' agenda bringing any recommendations back to Full Council. Cllr Mason Morris said if you Google the Wellington Festival it comes up as the UK largest

free festival. Cllr McCarthy commented that it is important to note that if events are charged for attendances will reduce and the equality between professional and amateur for acts will be lost.

140/15 Promotions and Liaison Committee 27th January 2016

Cllr. Fairclough presented the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January these were seconded by Cllr Allen. Cllr Fikeis said the minutes are incorrectly stating Cllr Mason-Morris as Vice Chairman to this committee when she was appointed. A Christmas Lights Working Party had been formed as the current 3 year contract had ended. The Bayley Mile has its 20th anniversary this year and it has been recognised that there are conflicts with the school curriculum which affect the number of runners. It had been agreed to extend invitations to more schools and a celebrity such as Ricky Woodhall would be invited to present the prizes. There is still a vacancy for the Town Crier and it was thought this might be because we do not offer expenses or uniform, it was therefore agreed to offer £300.00 as a budget figure.

Unity Carnival – It was reported that there is no committee for this the moment - Cllr Alvey felt it was a sad that there would not be an event this year and appealed for members to try and attract volunteers to organise next years' event. Cllr Burns commented that the traditional concept of a carnival may not be the right thing for today. Cllr Allen said it is really about getting volunteers to work on a committee.

Bowring - Cllr Hosken questioned the P&L minute relating to the regulations for use of the Bowring park and would investigate the situation with the Borough.

Members accepted the minutes.

141/15 Boxing Club – Cllr Fikeis reported the Boxing Club has produced several champions and extended an invitation to all Councillors to the next fight at the Whitehouse on 18th March and suggested that the winners come to the next meeting to receive a presentation. Joan Gorse said that Cllr Carter had given £500.00 from his ward fund to the boxing club and had secured a further £600.00 of funding.

142/15 Telford and Wrekin's Finance & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee - The Mayor congratulated Cllr Mason- Morris on her appointment to this committee. Cllr Fikeis said that despite sending in her forms for this committee three times the Borough Council Officer said she had not received them.

143/15 To agree date and time of the next meeting – This was agreed as Tuesday 8th March 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed8th March 2016