

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 8th March 2016, starting at 7.05pm.

Present:

Cllr F Burns, Deputy Mayor	
Cllr D Allen	Cllr P McCarthy
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 L Tillotson
Cllr K Tomlinson	

In attendance: - John Hughes from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Rev. Richard Kirby from All Saints Church and Karen Roper, Town Clerk.

144/15 7.00pm Introduction and Welcome - The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Reverend Richard Kirby to lead the prayers.

145/15 7.05pm The Shropshire Wildlife Trust – The Clerk had previously emailed a fact sheet relating to the Wrekin Forest Partnership Scheme. The Deputy Mayor introduced John Hughes of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust who reminded everyone of when the Wellington Side of the Wrekin came up for sale on 2004 and the Wildlife Trust tried to purchase it but the deal was not agreed. However, the Wrekin Forest Plan was put together and was updated in 2015 through the Shropshire Hills of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The task now is to take the recommendations from the plan forward, so a Landscape Partnership Scheme has been formed which has 3 essential outcomes

- **Improve the heritage around the area** - including geology, woodlands and industrial archaeology, creating improved benefits for the community.
- **Outcomes for people** – Individuals getting involved/volunteers/school groups and learning about the heritage.
- **Improved benefits for the community** - Parking was highlighted as an issue for visitors to the Wrekin and various solutions would be considered.

7.07pm Cllr McCarthy joined the meeting

By June 2016 an outline proposal bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund will go forward which if successful will allow the Partnership to work for the first 12 months developing a plan to decide how the outcomes could be delivered. Then work would begin with landowners, local businesses and people to deliver agreed outcomes over a five year period. The grants process is very competitive for funding awards of up to £3m requiring some match funding. This programme could make significant improvements and look at how the Wrekin connects to the Town. Mr Hughes felt it is a good time to put the bid because of the recent update of the Wrekin Forest Plan and the Telford Local Plan which has also highlighted the importance of the Wrekin to the area.

Cllr McCarthy asked the following questions.

- What would be the selling points of the scheme to Local Landowners?
Response: Ownership is a mixture of private, T&W Borough Council, Wildlife Trust and local businesses, working with them would start where objectives overlap.
- Have you got any examples/vision of what the Partnership would look like?
Response: The Meers and Mosses project at Whitchurch was highlighted as successful but the challenge was very different.
- Are there any current examples of a Partnership working elsewhere and how might the Council be involved? **Response** - There is an existing partnership called 'The Wrekin Forest Partnership', it needs reviewing and John would hope that there would be a Wellington Council Representative. Cllr Roberts volunteered.
- Cllr Tomlinson asked what % of match funding would be required – **Response**- Roughly 25% match funding is required, made up of a mixture of cash and in kind contribution.
- Cllr Tomlinson asked about the suggestion of a Land Train / Shuttle Bus as a way forward – **Response** - John had been involved in a similar scheme and commented that it is often very difficult to make them financially sustainable.
- Cllr McCarthy said he regularly walks and runs Haughmond Hill and it seems to be much better organised. – **Response** was that Haughmond Hill is in single ownership which makes things very much easier.
- Cllr Alvey asked if there was any tie-in with Historic England? **Response** - Not particularly but the Trust had worked with them previously on the Wrekin Hill Fort.

Members applauded and thanked John Hughes for his presentation.

146/15 Apologies for Absence – Were received and accepted from: Cllr M Hosken due to illness, Cllr P Morris-Jones and Cllr C Mason-Morris both at other meetings. The Deputy Mayor asked that Members officially vote and agree to accept apologies. All members voted and were in agreement.

147/15 Declarations of Interest – Members only need declare any interest they may have in items of business on this Agenda. None were declared.

148/15 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2016

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Alvey seconded by Cllr Allen and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2016 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record.

149/15 Matters arising from those minutes:

- **Pride in Your High Street** - Cllr Alvey quoted minute 135/15 and asked if Cllr Carter had

found the answer to Cllr Hosken's question asking how the judging panel was chosen. Cllr Carter said he had no further information but understood Cllr deLauney had further news to report later in the agenda.

150/15 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.

151/15 Planning Committee.

Planning Committee Minutes were presented by Cllr Perkins 2nd by Cllr Gorse for the meeting held on 10th February 2016, members voted in favour.

Minutes of 24th February 2016 were proposed by Cllr Perkins and 2nd by Cllr Gorse. Cllr Perkins said the presentation from Tom Jones, (Planning Officer from Telford and Wrekin) was excellent The Clerk was asked to write and thank him for his help.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of 10th and 24th February are received and action taken be endorsed.

152/15 Wellington Festival Committee

Cllr Gorse gave an overview of the matters discussed in the Festival Committee minutes. Discussions with T&W Officers would hopefully help to advertise and promote the events via the TLC membership database of around 40,000 addresses. An approach had been made from Oakengates for a Poems and Pints evening which would be given further consideration by the Committee. Cllr Fikeis said the Committee were working towards a varied programme with something for all age groups and cultures. Cllr Alvey said that more volunteers were required for this Committee. Cllr McClements commented that Team Wellington might be able to help with promotion and marketing but there was no Town Council Representative on this body. Cllr deLauney said he was currently in discussion with them. Members accepted the minutes.

153/15 Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee

Cllr deLauney gave the following report from the Policy and Resources Meeting of 1st March 2016

- **Visioning Event** – A suitable facilitator had been identified through SALC and members were asked if 9th April was an appropriate date. Many members were unable to make the date so the Clerk would circulate alternative dates by email. Councillors commented that we may need to just settle on a date because trying to please everyone is going to be difficult.
- **Bowring Café** – Following the advertising of the Café lease, ten expressions of interest had been received. There was some discussion on how the tenders would be judged, Councillor Allen proposed that the Clerk and Cllr deLauney deal with the awarding of the lease. This was seconded by Cllr Brittain and members voted in favour of the proposal. Cllr deLauney explained that this would be a process not just looking at price but would also include the provision of services in line with the comments previously made by the council e.g.
 - Opening hours
 - Customer service / offer
 - Sports Equipment Hire
 - Looking after the adjoining toilet blockCllr deLauney expressed his hope of the Café being opened for the Easter Weekend.
- **Grants Evening** - The proposal is that the next Grants consideration meeting will

be held on 5th April with cheques to be presented on 19th April coinciding with the Annual Town Council Meeting.

- **Wellington Environmental Services Team (WEST) – (formally PET)** The Clerk had previously circulated a budget to members. Cllr Roberts asked if the vehicle costs included the road tax, what was the length of the lease and how many years does the contribution from Telford and Wrekin run for? Cllr deLauney responded to her questions by confirming the road tax is included in the presented figures, the lease runs for 3 years and Telford & Wrekin's funding would continue for 3 years. He then gave an overview of the budget commenting how this would save the Council money and improve service delivery over and above the current T&W provision. The Team would have a van and would offer an Apprentice placement who would work under the direction of the Council. Councillors would also be offered £1,000 per ward for additional services. Cllr McCarthy commented that it was a shame that the Council had not consulted Madeley Town Council on their more sophisticated environmental scheme that had been running for the past 15 years to find out the pitfalls and how areas, particularly one off events such as fly tipping, could be identified. The question of duplication of roles with the Borough was also raised. Cllr deLauney said that this Council had for the past 15 years additionally contributed to the service provided by the Borough so the situation remains unchanged. He envisaged that Councillors would identify areas that needed attention and notify the office. Officers would then ask the WEST to programme in a visit. Exactly how the scheme will work is yet to be worked out and efforts would begin on the programme once the Full Council have confirmed its support to go forward with the scheme.
- **Office Accommodation** – Discussion ensued about the suggestion to move the Council Offices to the Lower Library area. The Clerk had circulated the initial drawings done by Telford and Wrekin, these had been rejected and the brief was identified as;
 - **Direct access on to Walker Street**
 - **Being more available to electors**
 - **A larger replacement for Lesley's Room**
 - **A like for like equivalent for the Council Chamber**
 - **Moving away from the noise**
 - **Offering more office space**

Cllr deLauney confirmed that a further meeting would be held to look at amended plans and other options that would be open to the Council. Members were agreed that extra staff would be required to deal with enquiries. Cllr McCarthy asked if there would be a loss of services from the library, Cllr deLauney said the Borough had intended to move the library from the lower area whether or not Wellington Town Council decide to move from its present location.

- **Bowring Park Planting** – Cllr deLauney confirmed the Borough Councils' intention not to plant the Bowring Park area from 2017/18 onwards. The proposal from the Policy and Resources Committee was to appoint a working party to look at future arrangements for the Bowring Park, Cllr Phil Morris-Jones had agreed to act as Chairman. Cllr Tomlinson expressed her view that the Bowring should be re-developed so that more facilities are made available to families as it used to be. Cllr Gorse suggested Cllr Tomlinson was appointed to the working group.
- **Communications** – Cllr deLauney reported on the proposal to have sponsored pages within Wrekin News at a cost of £1,800.00 per annum, pages could be used

for community news as well as Town Council news. Cllr McCarthy asked about the demographic groups that will benefit from this proposal, Cllr deLauney said that together with our social media and the new website the Council is attempting to communicate with as many people as possible at a price we can afford.

- **ICT Working Group** – The Clerk had circulated a report from Councillor Mason Morris. Cllr Tomlinson said she had attended the last meeting and felt the offer from the local company seemed to be good and their service, maintenance, support and training seemed very flexible. The Working Group is meeting tomorrow. If Full Council, agrees tonight, training will be offered to everyone during April with the intention to go live in May. Cllr Tomlinson asked that Cllr Mason Morris is officially thanked for her excellent report this was 2nd by Cllr Allen.
- **Update of Financial Standing Orders** – Cllr deLauney said that these would be taken to the April Policy and Resources Committee and presented at the next Full Council meeting for approval.

It was proposed by Cllr deLauney, seconded Cllr Gorse, and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 1st March 2016 at 7.00pm be received and action taken be endorsed.

154.15 Promotions and Liaison Committee 24th February 2016

Cllr. Tomlinson proposed the minutes of the Promotions and Liaison Committee of 24th February 2nd Cllr Fairclough.

The following points were highlighted:

- The meeting with Destination Telford did not take place.
- The Committee were really pleased with the new website, particularly as it is more interactive and each Councillor would have a generic email address.
- Christmas lights switch on would not be a full day event this year as not many people supported it last year. Christmas lighting quotations were being obtained and a working group would consider the results. A lantern parade would be considered but this was dependent on budget.
- Marketing for the 20th Anniversary of the Bailey Mile would be assisted by Telford & Wrekin officers to promote the event through their contacts. The Committee was looking for a famous name to open the event.
- Cllr Tomlinson thanked Cllr Alvey for offering to stand in as Town Crier but Andrew Gordon from Alums Jewellers had volunteered for the position. Cllr Tomlinson said he was a perfect choice and she was really pleased that he had agreed to take the role on. A suggestion was made from Rob Francis to approach the schools to design a Town Crier outfit and the Ladies from the Sewing Shop had offered to make it for him.
- A meeting with Cllr S Davies and P Hudson was held to discuss the outcome of the Pride in Your High Street funding bid which failed because the application did not meet the criteria. It had been suggested that a professional bid writer should be employed on a no win no fee basis. Further meetings with T&W would be held before applying to the Pride fund 2017.
- **Unity Carnival** – Cllr Tomlinson said the committee would like to get this event going again and would be working towards that. Cllr Alvey requested an amendment to minute 67/15 at the next meeting of P&L as he felt it did not reflect what was said and the minutes as written were misleading. Cllr Burns asked Cllr Alvey to identify his amendment. He requested the removal of ~~Cllr Alvey reported to the committee that Eddie Lowe at the Plough pub had mentioned that with his Help the Heroes event in May was outgrowing his pub and that he was considering moving the event to the Bowling Park.~~

Replacing with 'Cllr Alvey reported to the Committee that Eddie Lowe at the Plough Pub had mentioned with the Committee of the Help for Heroes event in May that possibly the event could tie in with a carnival type event.' Members voted in favour of this amendment that would be made at the next meeting of P&L minutes on 30th March 2016.

- Twinning Gift – Cllr Tomlinson reported that the gift of a plate had now been mounted in a display box and would be positioned within the library. Two engraved plaques would be mounted onto the case, one in English and one in French and enquiries would be made about insuring the plate prior to it being displayed.

155/15 Conservation Working Group – Minutes for the meeting held on 2nd March 2016 were not available for this Committee and the Clerk would ask for them to be circulated by email to members as soon as possible.

Cllr Allen reported on the details of clearance works that had been done in the area by both the Friends of Dothill Group and the Wellington Walkers are Welcome Group. Cllr Tomlinson referred to some of her Pride money being used for planting and bird boxes. She also mentioned a donation of aggregate for the paths which was refused because of possible contamination. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 4th May 2016.

156/15 Community Group Coffee Evening 23rd February 2016 – Cllr Burns reported that the meeting had gone well and had achieved its goal of getting community groups networking. The following points were made:

- The Council website would be used by community groups and the Clerk would have editorial control
- Citizens Advice needed volunteers
- The History Society need a Secretary
- Breathe Easy Group expressed concern about their continued use of Council facilities if the move to the Lower Library happens.

Cllr Alvey congratulated Cllr Burns for initiating another successful event. It had been agreed that these evenings would be held twice a year in September and March.

157/15 Matters for Information.

- Car Parks - Cllr McClements updated members on the progress so far. Work would commence in the 1st quarter of the financial year on the signage and installation of ticketing machines. Further discussions would be held about possible charges in the long stay car parks.
- Watling Community Centre – Cllr McClements said a steering group had been set up, membership included representatives from the Churches, the Town Council and Residents; it had met twice so far. A funding bid was being written and the Community and Voluntary Service were assisting with provision of a constitution and other help. It all looked really positive.
- Cllr Alvey commented that he had given evidence at the recent public planning enquiry relating to the Haygate Fields application.

158/15 To agree date and time of the next meeting – This was agreed as Tuesday 12th April 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed12th April 2016