

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 12th April 2016, starting at 7.05pm.

Present:

Cllr P Morris-Jones Mayor	
Cllr D Allen	Cllr C Mason-Morris
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 R Perkins	Cllr A Lowe
Cllr A McClements	Cllr F Burns
Cllr K Tomlinson	Cllr M Hosken,

In attendance: - Rev. Richard Kirby from All Saints Church, Karen Roper, Town Clerk and five members of the public.

158/15 7.00pm Introduction and Welcome - The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Reverend Richard Kirby to lead the prayers.

159/15 7.05pm – Tribute to Cllr Chris Lewis - The Mayor called on members to hold one minutes' silence to honour former Cllr Chris Lewis. He then commented that his death will be a huge loss to his many friends and colleagues on the Council and his community. He will be greatly missed and remembered with respect. Our hearts go out to Chris's family and friends at this very sad time. The Mayor then read a thank you note from Mrs Lewis for the condolences received commenting that he bore his illness with great dignity and serenity. Cllr Gorse said that Cllr Lewis was a very conscientious Councillor, quiet and reserved, he will be missed and his death is a great loss.

Cllr Lewis's funeral will be on 18th April, 2pm at Telford Crematorium followed by a service of Thanksgiving at 3pm, Wellington Methodist Church.

160/15 Apologies for Absence – Were received from: Cllr Tillotson and Cllr McCarthy, work commitments, Cllrs Roberts and Fairclough, annual leave. Members officially voted and agreed to accept the above apologies.

161/15 Declarations of Interest – Members only need declare any interest they may have in items of business on this Agenda. None were declared.

162/15 To receive a Report from the Mayor

The Mayor listed his engagements since the last full Council meeting.

Date	Engagement
13.02.16	Opening Cottage Care Charity Shop
27.02.16	Mayors' Charity Concert
05.03.16	Charter Day
08.03.16	Dr. McClure Music Awards
19.03.16	Civic Ball – the Mayor was very pleased to see 16 Councillors in attendance and thanked Cllr Alvey for running the raffle which raised £300.
22.03.16	Young Citizens of the Year Award
23.03.16	Good2Great Briefing
09.04.16	Polish Saturday School Social Event

The Mayor reported he had attended 89 events during his Mayoral year and had thoroughly enjoyed his tenure; he thanked all the Councillors who had supported him and gave special thanks to Caroline Mulvihill for all her help.

163/15 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2016

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Alvey seconded by Cllr deLauney and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2016 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record.

164/15 Matters arising from those minutes:

- **Minute Ref 149/15 Pride in Your High Street** - Cllr Lowe, said the High Street, Walker Street and Market Street were in need of immediate urgent major investment and asked what was being done at Borough level. Cllr Carter said that Borough Councillors were exerting pressure and progress had been made, bringing sites back into use such as the bus depot and the Charlton developments. Evolving a partnership approach was the way forward but there was a lot to do not helped by Borough budget cuts of £30m. It was agreed to ask Phil Edwards to the next meeting to update Councillors.
- **Wrekin News** – Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the initial feature, the Clerk would feed this information back to Wrekin News.
- **Arleston Community Centre** (formally known as Watling Community Centre) - Cllr McClements reported on the following progress:
 - A steering group had been formed
 - A constitution had been proposed
 - A bid for funding had been made to Telford and Wrekin Borough.
 - The name had changed to Arleston Community Centre
 - Residents were being consulted for their views.
 - It was hoped that Wellington Town Council would support the venture

165/15 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.

166/15 Planning Committee.

Minutes of 9th March 2016 Planning Committee - were moved by Cllr Perkins and 2nd by Cllr Alvey for the above meeting, members voted to accept, but the following comment was made; Parking relating to the Motor Service Station in King Street in Wellington was causing a traffic problem, the Police had been informed by the Clerk.

Minutes of 23rd March 2016 Planning Committee - were moved by Cllr Perkins 2nd by Cllr Alvey for the above meeting, members voted in favour, but the following comments were made regarding the Station approach. This area is currently a designated Hackney Carriage parking / waiting area which appears not to be in use by them. The Planning Committee suggested that the restrictions are removed to allow short stay public parking.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of 9th and 23rd March 2016 are received and action taken be endorsed.

167/15 Wellington Festival Committee – Minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2016 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Alvey and 2nd by Cllr Mason–Morris. It was reported that initially the proposal was to run over a 2 week period but the committee had received so much interest the time frame had been extended. The headline act had been confirmed as Eddie the Eagle Edwards. It was RESOLVED that the above minutes are received and action taken be endorsed.

168/15 Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee- Cllr deLauney moved the minutes of the Policy and Resources Meeting of 5th April 2016, these were 2nd by Cllr Mason-Morris.

- **Visioning Event** – Saturday the 30th April 2016 had been chosen as the most suitable date and the Clerk had circulated an agenda. Councillors were urged to attend.
- **Bowring Café** – One bid had been received from an employee. Members suggested that Team Wellington are asked to help and an existing café owner in Wellington be approached.
- **Wellington Environmental Services Team** – Cllr deLauney reported the offer from T&W had now increased to £25,000 from the Borough.
- **Grants** - The Grants consideration meeting was held on 5th April, (refer to attached list of awards). Cheques will be presented on 19th April coinciding with the Annual Town Council Meeting. Some questions were raised about the awarding process Cllr deLauney explained the current method. The Clerk confirmed that there was a draft Grants Awarding Policy document, Cllr Alvey proposed that Policy and Resources Committee consider its adoption.
- **Office Accommodation** – The Clerk had circulated updated drawings to members which included a kitchen area in the smaller meeting room reducing the size of the room. Members agreed that negotiations with T&W would continue.
- **ICT Working Group** – The Clerk had circulated the final report from Councillor Mason Morris. Members thanked Cllr Mason Morris for her excellent report and for the work done. Cllr Mason Morris said it was a team effort and assured members that training and support would be on-going and there would be cost and efficiency savings for the Council. Cllr deLauney said the P&R minutes of 5th April did not include the recommendation to Full Council to accept the report. ***He made it clear to members that acceptance of the report this evening would mean acceptance of the proposal to use less paper and move to working with electronic devices to access information as the future way of working for Wellington Town Council.***
- **Vision 2020** – Cllr deLauney said that since the 2014 Vision 2020 report, the Town Council had part funded a project Manager to move things forward but we did not have a town management function which he felt was the missing link. The Pride in Your High Street Funding may help but the rules and regulations around accessing this funding are still unclear, so funding is not available at the present time. Meantime

the market is deteriorating and action needs to be taken quickly.

He informed members of a bid received from Team Wellington to offer a Town Management function in two parts totalling £16,700. This figure has been found from our existing budget and urged members to support this bid.

- Pop Up Pitch – an offer made to small businesses to come into the market on flexible terms, costing £1,700.
- Team Wellington – an offer made to the Council to provide a professional and dedicated 'town team' acting to promote the town using their experience between April 2016 – March 2017, costing £15,000.

Cllr deLauney asked the Town Council to take a leap of faith and invest in the Team Wellington proposal.

Cllr Gorse asked members to consider 2 questions before the decision is taken,

- Who decides what the results are.....and
- How is success judged?

She then proposed that the decision is referred back to P&R to look at the original document for further consideration. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Perkins.

Cllr Lowe put the counter argument, pointing out that Team Wellington had been working voluntarily for some time, producing literature and holding meetings in London with the Market Company Management Team to try and move things forward.

He proposed that this decision is not referred back but monitored on a month by month basis.

Cllr Gorse amended her proposal to agree that only the Market Pop Up Patch proposal is funded but the Team Wellington request is referred back for further consideration.

Cllr deLauney said this was a well-argued proposal which is needed to take things forward. He urged members to reject the referral back and support the minutes assuring members that no payments would be made without results.

The Mayor called for a vote taken on the amendment from Cllr Gorse *'to agree that only the Market Pop Up Patch proposal is funded but the Team Wellington request is referred back for further consideration'* - 7 votes were in agreement of the above amendment.

The Mayor then called for a vote to accept the original proposal from the P&R Committee. *'To award the bid to Team Wellington on a payment by results basis'* - 7 votes were received in favour, the Mayor used his casting vote in favour of the original proposal which was carried.

Cllrs Carter and McClements abstained from the vote.

- **Donnington and Muxton Parish Council** - Request to use the Chain of Office for the Wellington Urban District Council. Following deliberation, members refused on the grounds that other parishes may also wish to use the chains.
- **Personnel Sub-Committee** – Cllr deLauney reported that Policy and Resources (P&R) committee had proposed that a précis of the Personnel minutes would be included in the

P&R minutes rather than a full set of minutes being brought to Full Council. All Members could view the Personnel Minutes by contacting the Clerk. Cllr Alvey commented that he was not in agreement of changing the job title of the Deputy Town Clerk to Service Manager. Cllr deLauney explained the reason for the change

Cllr McClements left the meeting at 8.00pm.

169/15 Promotions and Liaison Committee

Cllr Tomlinson presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30th March these were 2nd Cllr Hall:

- **Town Crier** - A new Town Crier has been found and ladies from the sewing shop have agreed to make the outfit but there were concerns over the timescale for the original suggestion to ask schools to design the outfit so this would no longer happen.
- **Christmas Lights** – There was an update that the new Christmas lights contract would cost slightly less than as recorded in the minutes due to further negotiations with the company. Over the 5 years the display would be within budget of 20k per year.
- **Bayley Mile** – The 20th anniversary event will be going ahead and had been opened out to other schools around the area. Stewards are still required for the day so members were invited to volunteer if able to do so. Paralympian Mickey Bushell MBE had agreed to present the medals on the day to the winning children and the Buckatree Hall hotels were providing refreshments. Future events will be reviewed taking into account school curriculum.

The above minutes were accepted.

170/15 Conservation Working Group - Cllr Allen presented the minutes. He said that a Friends of Dothill were working hard clearing large areas. Fishing pegs were being funded by the Wellington Town Council (WTC) Mayor's Charity. He expressed his appreciation of the cross party support from WTC, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Telford and Wrekin Council. Cllr Tomlinson commented that funding from her Pride Fund had been used to plant trees and upgrade footpaths. The remainder of her Pride fund money was being held by WTC until a bank account can be opened.

The above minutes were accepted.

171/15 Clerk to report on Correspondence, for information only.

- The Buckatree Hotel had agreed to sell postcards
- The CCTV at the Bowring is almost completed
- Internal Auditor will be examining the books on 7th June
- External Auditor requires the accounts by 30th June
- Cllr Hosken commented Queen is 90 years of Age on 30th April he asked what was happening to celebrate this? Cllr Carter responded that a Beacon was being lit in Southwater Square.

The following information had been distributed to members.

- Royal British Legion Parade on 8th May, attendees need to be seated by 6.20pm at All Saints Church.
- Princess Royal4Me information emailed to members
- Wrekin Area Committee meeting to be rescheduled, members will be notified of a new date

- Tesco Grants Bags of Help information distributed
- Senior Citizens newsletter
- SALC & NALC Newsletters
- Training Opportunities on 'Appraisals' and 'Being a Better Councillor'.
- Mayor Making for Telford & Wrekin Council taking place at Oakengates Theatre 6.30pm Thursday 26th May

172/15 **Next Meeting Date** - The next meeting was agreed as **Tuesday 10th May at 7.00pm.**

The meeting closed 8.25pm

Signed10th May 2016