

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Phil Morris-Jones MBE



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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on **Tuesday, 1st November 2016** commencing at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllr S deLauney, Chairman	Cllr L Carter (arriving later)
Cllr F Burns	Cllr M Hosken
Cllr S Hall	Cllr D Allen - ex officio
Cllr P Morris-Jones – ex officio	Cllr A Lowe

In attendance: One member of the Public, J. Gorse, R. Perkins and K. Roper - Town Clerk.

68/16 Welcome – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

69/16 Apologies for Absence - Were accepted from Cllr C Mason-Morris.

70/16 Declarations of Interest - None

71/16 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Cllr deLauney and resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2016 are approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

72/16 Matters Arising

(a) Office Move – The Clerk said the Borough have promised to bring the proposal to the December meeting. The Shropshire Star had picked up on the planning application and had requested a quote from the Mayor.

(b) Anti-Social Behaviour Order- The Clerk had attended a meeting of officers on 11th October, the main issue was about reporting incidents to the Police which staff were now doing. The Clerk reported that Frank Lauriello, on behalf of the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce distributed 150 letters to shop owners regarding the EDL march planned on 5th November. The Police had issued a further letter today confirming the march would take place in Telford centre and not Wellington.

(c) Wrekin News – The Clerk said the November article was a mixture of items and agreed to circulate the draft to members.

(d) Parking – The Clerk reported that there were no parking ticket machines installed to date. Members were expressed concern at the time taken to deliver this and the following other projects.

- Resolution of the parking issues at Station approach Taxi Rank
- Bollards – the Clerk had raised a health and safety issue about lifting as they are a heavy weight and difficult to lift.

- Parking by the Church layby

(e) PCSO Update – The Clerk said the starting date of the PCSO had not yet been identified and a service level agreement still needed to be negotiated with the Police.

73/16 Finance - It was proposed by Cllr Hosken, 2nd by Cllr deLauney and RESOLVED to accept and endorse items a-e on the agenda following acceptable answers to questions asked.

- Receipts for September 2016
- Payments for October 2016
- Payments to date for October 2016
- Details of Petty Cash payments for October 2016
- Receipts/Payments compared with budget as at 30.09.16.
- Bank Account Update - The Clerk had no further news on this issue and was asked to progress it.
- Budget – The Chairman proposed that due to the confidential nature of the draft budget that this item will be moved to the end of the agenda and taken in private session. This was seconded by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members.

74/16 To Receive a Report from the Visioning Working Group – Cllr Burns reported on the initial meeting which discussed how the original report could be taken forward with clear terms of reference, objectives and timescales. Cllr deLauney said he thought the objective was to produce a master plan similar to that produced by Oswestry Town Council and did not envisage creating another structure. The next meeting of the working group was planned for 14th November with the objective of presenting a report to full council.

75/16 Wellington Environmental Services Team Vehicle – Councillors had been asked to identify hot spots requiring extra attention in their area e.g. litter collection, planting, tree cutting etc. The Chairman reported that the Apprentice would be starting mid-November and would need induction and college training. The Clerk was asked to clarify the Borough's on-going responsibilities. It was agreed that if people are not trained to do the role they are not qualified for the job.

76/16 Bowring Working Group – The group met on 27th October with T&W Officers and considered options for the 2017 planting programme. The Borough had agreed to maintain and water displays up to 2019, (to the end of the TWS contract) so the cost was for materials only. Cllr Hosken suggested Ward Councillors pool their Pride money to plant the Bowring park. Cllr Morris Jones proposed that the Council pay for the summer and winter planting of the Bowring Park for 2017/18 at a cost of £2511.97, this was seconded by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members. Cllr Burns said that he had agreed to the suggestion for one year only and asked that other options are considered at the appropriate time.

77/16 20:04 pm Cllr Carter joined the meeting.

78/16 2020 Project Board – The Chairman said the last meeting was cancelled and he had asked the Deputy Clerk to fix another date.

79/16 Cllr deLauney proposed the meeting was closed to the public and press to consider the draft 2017/18 budget. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members. The public left at this point.

80/16 Draft 2017/18 Budget – Cllr deLauney explained the budget line by line and confirmed funding for:

- **Bowring Planting**
- **The West Team**
- **Environmental Projects**
- **PCSO**
- **A loan to purchase a building in the town centre**

He explained the threat of referendum from DCLG and added if there was an appropriate year to raise the precept it is now. The proposed budget shows an increase of 13.4% or 16p per week on a band D property.

Cllr deLauney confirmed there was now 2 months for members to look at the budget and he would be happy to answer any questions.

Cllr Morris-Jones considered the reserves to be too high. The Clerk reported the bare minimum recommended by auditors amounted to 3 months operating costs; the figure indicated on the budget is not quite that amount therefore she would not recommend lower reserves those indicated on the budget.

Cllr Lowe said the role of the Town Council is expanding and communication is the key to gaining public support. Cllr Carter felt this was a good first stab at trying to deliver our objectives and expanding service delivery as the Borough council retracts. Cllr Gorse agreed that communication with residents was critical as they need to understand what the Council is doing.

Cllr Hosken thanked Cllr deLauney for all the hard work that had been put into this document.

81/16 The date and time of the next meeting – was agreed as Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 7.00pm.

Signed6th December 2016