

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Phil Morris-Jones MBE



Town Clerk
KAREN ROPER
B.A,(HONS) DMS
Civic Offices, Larkin Way
Tan Bank, Wellington
Telford TF1 1LX
Tel: 01952 567697

Email: wellingtontowncouncil@telford.gov.uk
www.wellington-shropshire.gov.uk

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes for the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 11th April 2017 commencing at 7:05pm.

Present:

Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE (Mayor)	Cllr M Hosken	Cllr C Mason-Morris
Cllr D Allen	Cllr A McClements	Cllr S Hall
Cllr P Fairclough	Cllr J Alvey	Cllr G Cook
Cllr K Tomlinson	Cllr F Burns	Cllr A Lowe
Cllr S Fikeis	Cllr L Carter	Cllr S deLauney
Cllr D Roberts		

In attendance – 12 members of the public, Reverend Tim Carter from All Saints Church, David Evans, Chief Executive of the CCG and Karen Roper – Town Clerk.

141/16 Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and called on Reverend Carter to take prayers.

142/16 Presentations – The Mayor made presentations to the following recipients:-

- **Ross Vickers** – The Mayor introduced Ross as Chairman of the Civic Society and he had given him a great deal of help and advice during his term of office. Ross had attended every meeting / event and acted as the official photographer for the Council. He was warmly thanked for all his support and presented with a plaque.
- **Ralph Perkins** - The Mayor presented a town plaque to Ralph Perkins for all the many years of hard work he had done on behalf of the Council. The Mayor said Ralph would be greatly missed, it was hoped his health would improve and he would always be made very welcome at this Council.
- **Lisa Tillotson** – The plaque was presented to group leader, Cllr Hosken as Lisa was not present due to work commitments. The Mayor said Lisa had worked hard during her time but unfortunately her employment and personal demands had meant she could no longer continue as a Town Councillor.
- **2nd Wellington Scouts** – This organisation was presented with a cheque from the Mayor's charity fundraising events for this year.
- **Farcroft Residents Association** – the Mayor presented a cheque raised from his Charity ball fundraising evening.

143/16 Mallin Walk in Centre (MWIC)– The Mayor introduced Mr Evans who gave the following report in relation to the decision to close the MWIC.

Mr Evans thanked Councillors for extending the invitation for him to address the meeting. The MWIC was established 6-7 years ago on the Princess Royal Hospital site and its contract was not well thought through at the time because patients are choosing to go to the walk in

service rather than their own GP. The way the service is funded is that GP surgeries are paid per patient therefore if they do not use their own surgery and go to the walk in service the NHS is paying twice for that patient to be seen and often they present themselves at A&E inappropriately. It was therefore felt to be a better and cost effective option to:-

- Extend surgery opening hours for all local GP surgeries, to include evening and weekends
- Offer a GP surgery based 'walk in service'
- Keep demand away from A&E service

In terms of Primary Care the Mallin currently has 7,500 patients registered and all local surgeries were asked about their current capacity to take on extra patients. The survey revealed there were 17,000 GP placements available throughout the Borough and so far 2,000 people have moved from the Mallin to other practices.

Cllr Alvey raised the point that the Wellington surgery has a poor reputation for service which is why many people had moved to the Mallin. Mr Evans said the Mallin did not offer best value for money and the CQC inspection found it requires improvement on many points reviewed. He assured members that the CCG was committed to working with Wellington medical practice to improve customer care, particularly with reception staff and address the issues raised by patients.

7.25 pm Rev. Tim Carter left the meeting

Cllr Hosken reported he had attended a Health and Scrutiny panel meeting earlier today and made the following points:

- A great many people were disappointed at the decision to close the Mallin
- People came to the Mallin from all over Telford, they now have the problem of finding a GP and many surgeries have closed their lists
- Quoted figures of £480,000 – 500,000 seem a small price to pay to bring the building up to standard in view of the 8,000 people being registered to and 350 walk in patients per week being supported and served by the Mallin.

Cllr Hosken urged that the decision is revisited and reversed and the strategy should be rewritten.

Mr Evans said he believes that by extending the opening hours of existing surgeries, people will be better served. The problem had been that people unable to get an appointment at their own GP surgery go to the Walk in Mallin which means the NHS is paying twice for their care which is not best use of public money. He also said the CCG was working closely with planners at Telford and Wrekin to ensure new developments bringing additional people into the Borough were taken into account in their development plans for extending and enhancing existing GP surgeries.

Cllr Lowe described an experience of holding on the telephone for 15 minutes and then being cut off without speaking to anyone or being able to make an appointment at the Wellington Practice. Cllr Tomlinson said she and the Clerk had attended an open meeting where similar experiences were recounted. Mr Evans explained that practices are set up as independent businesses with staff not directly employed by the NHS and agreed this was not acceptable and would be working with the practice to improve their service. He confirmed that investment into a new phone system and training for staff had already been made. The Mayor said the decision seemed to be premature as it would make more sense to firstly prepare and improve current practices before closing the Mallin. Cllr Roberts said that currently there was no continuity with an individual Doctor as there were problems making follow up appointments and this was important if you were suffering from a long term illness. Mr Evans agreed this was an important issue.

Cllr McClements asked Mr Evans to take back the concerns he had heard. Mr Evans said he had heard loud and clear that there are problems with the Wellington Practice and he would be reporting this back to the CCG and working with them to discuss and improve the situation. He thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and left at 7.55pm

144/16 Apologies – Were received from, Cllrs, McCarthy, Brittain and Gorse, members proposed and agreed acceptance of the apologies.

145/16 Declarations of Interests – None were declared at this time.

146/16 To Receive the Mayors' Report - The Mayor reported he had been to the following events:

March 17th Shop opening 'Preloved Treasures'
March 17th Evening - Telford and Wrekin Mayors Civic Dinner at Hadley
March 20th High Sherriff of Shropshire Youth Awards in Shrewsbury
March 21st Dr McClure Music competition @ Wrekin College
March 23rd Photo Shoot at the Railway Station – Walkers are Welcome
March 24th Wem Mayors Ball
March 25th Wellington Town Council Ball (sold out)
March 30th Opening of Wellington Market's new toilets
April 1st Shrewsbury Mayors' Ball at the Lord Hill Hotel
April 6th Telford Lions 100 year celebration.

147/16 Appointment of the Mayor Elect for 2017-18 – Cllr deLauney proposed Cllr Denis Allen as Mayor Elect as per the Councils agreement, this was seconded by Cllr Alvey and put to the vote. 5 Councillors voted against but remaining Members were in agreement so Councillor Denis Allen was appointed as Mayor Elect for 2017-18.

148/16 Appointment of the Deputy Mayor Elect for 2017-18 – Cllr deLauney proposed Cllr Cindy Mason-Morris, this was seconded by Cllr Frank Burns, there being no other proposals, Cllr Mason-Morris was elected as Deputy Mayor for 2017-18.

149/16 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr Alvey seconded by Cllr Cook and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14th March 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

150/16 Matters arising from those Minutes - Verbal report from the Clerk.

- **Parking** – The Clerk reported the machines were now installed and some reaction had been received on email and social media. Cllr Carter said we must keep on and on with positive communication about the project. Cllr Burns asked that the FAQ ensured that the following messages were conveyed.
 - Parking will remain free
 - Long term parking will be sorted out and soon
- **Election** - Members were notified of the date of Election for casual vacancies as 18th May
- **Move** - The Clerk reported the Office moving date was on target for 24th April 2017.
- **WEST Team** - Cllr McClements requested a data breakdown from timesheets for the next full council meeting.

151/16 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.

- **Planning Committee held 22nd March 2017** - The minutes were proposed by Cllr J. Alvey, seconded by Cllr F. Burns and agreed by members present.

Street Naming and Numbering – Cllr Lowe said the late Mrs Florence Courtney-Jones was actually known as Rose and this fact should be reported to Telford and Wrekin Council. Cllr Roberts asked that consideration should also be given to Dr Khan to recognise the excellent work he had done over a long period of time.

TWC/2017/0172 Seaton Sports – A listed building application for the installation of roller shutter doors, this had been referred to the Borough Council's Conservation Officer.

TWC/2017/0174 5 Church Street – This application provoked considerable discussion as members were unhappy with number of dwellings proposed leading to overdevelopment.

TWC/2017/0161 Aldi Foodstore Ltd – It was reported that opening hours would be the same as Morrison's except for Sundays when they are subject to the statutory maximum.

- **Policy & Resources Committee held 4th April 2017** – The minutes were presented by Cllr deLauney, 2nd by Cllr Burns and agreed by members.
 - **Bank Account** – Cllr deLauney said the account was now up and running ready to start operations. Cllr Carter said this was good news for the council to be able to operate in a more modern way using electronic banking. The Clerk said she wished to understand the safeguards and would consult with the internal auditor.
 - **Receptionist** – Cllr Mason-Morris said she did not think the process had been transparent.
 - **Apprentice** – Enquiries would be made as to how the future employment of the apprentice could continue.
 - **Move** – Cllr deLauney reported that the new meeting room had been left untouched so that further decisions can be made at a later date.
 - **Bowring** – Cllr Morris-Jones reported that the Bowring Tenant has agreed to a further 3 year contract to operate the Café and to clean and maintain the toilets. It was reported that some issues were outstanding from the fire 12 months ago and these would be raised again with T&W.
 - **Allotments** – Members supported the idea of further investigation relating to taking over allotment sites.
- **Promotions and Liaison Committee – 29th March 2017** – The minutes were presented by Cllr Carter, 2nd by Cllr Hall, there were no questions so all agreed the record as presented.
- **Wellington Festival Committee 16th March 2017** – The minutes were presented by Cllr Mason-Morris and 2nd by Cllr Alvey. The Festival attendances and donations had gone well. Preparations were underway for the October events.

152/16 Walkers are Welcome - Proposal from Cllr Roberts, 2nd Cllr Alvey:-

Cllr Roberts said Wellington is a 'Walkers are Welcome' town but we are not making the most of it. Visitors arrive at the train station and can go straight into the countryside yet we do not publicise this. She felt resources are not being used effectively and we should be branding ourselves as a walking town. Cllr Roberts suggested working with the Chamber of Commerce and other agencies to offer tourist information and having a greater presence online promoting the fact that Wellington is the gateway to Shropshire. Members supported this view. Cllr Carter said he felt that Promotions and Liaison committee is the right vehicle to act on this and they would put together a programme of work to achieve this.

153/16 To Receive Urgent Matters for Information Only

- Cllr Mason Morris said she was disappointed with the grant funding process. She had applied on behalf of the Festival and received no acknowledgement of the bid and no further correspondence to let her know if she had been successful or not. Her previous bid to the Pride in Your High Street fund had been lost. The Clerk said she had seen letters go to other unsuccessful applicants and it may be that in this case this had not happened because she was part of the Council. She would check the process to ensure this did not happen in the future.
- The Mayor proposed to wear the chain of office on the 23rd April for the Princess Royal Hospital March, this was seconded by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members.

154/16 Date of the Next Meeting was agreed as 9th May 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Signed9th May 2017