

# Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor  
Cllr Denis Allen



**Town Clerk**  
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## POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on **Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017** commencing at **6.30pm**.

<b>Cllr S. deLauney – Chairman</b>	<b>Cllr J. Gorse</b>	<b>Cllr L Carter</b>
<b>Cllr M. Hosken</b>	<b>Cllr P. Morris-Jones</b>	<b>Cllr F. Burns</b>
<b>Cllr C. Mason-Morris</b>		

**In attendance** – One member of the public, Karen Roper - Town Clerk and Andrew Roberts, Deputy Town Clerk.

- 71/17 Welcome** – Cllr deLauney welcomed everyone and asked members to take agenda items 9 & 12 in closed session. It was proposed by Cllr Gorse 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Hosken and agreed by members to move agenda items 9 & 12 to the end of the agenda and to take these in closed session.
- 72/17 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr A. Lowe– work commitment. Apology accepted.
- 73/17 Declarations of Interest** –There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.
- 74/17 Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017** – were proposed by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Councillor Burns and RESOLVED by members as a true and accurate record.
- 75/17 Matters arising from those minutes–**
- **Wellington Health Centre** – The Clerk said the letter to the CCG had been acknowledged but no response had been received and she would chase this.
- 76/17 Wellington Pubwatch Scheme** – The Clerk gave an overview of the town council's involvement with the scheme which was limited to administration. There were some teething issues with the setting up process and she would keep Councillors informed.
- 77/17 Finance** – Reports were presented for October 2017
- Cllr Hosken commented it should be recognised that a lot of work goes into the reports presented to this Council, he proposed the accounts referenced a – e below for acceptance, this was seconded by Cllr Gorse and agreed by members.
- To agree receipts for September 2017
  - To agree payments for September 2017
  - To agree payments to date for October 2017

- d. To receive details of Petty Cash payments for September 2017
- e. To receive details of Receipts/Payments compared with budget as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

6.55pm Cllr Mason Morris joined the meeting

**f. Banking arrangements** – Cllr Carter asked for an update and the Clerk reported there was a meeting set for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November to discuss a way forward with Barclays.

**g. Wellington United Charities** – the Clerk confirmed that an advert had been taken out in the Wrekin News to encourage new applications in accordance with the Trustees instructions. Cllr Burns asked for clarity around the Clerks role and the Charities, the Clerk would present this at the next meeting.

**h. External Auditor Update** – Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had advised that she was happy with the half yearly audit and had no concerns.

**78/17 Visioning and Governance** – The Clerk said she had not received any comments from members relating to the report and would turn it into an action plan if members so wished. Councillor Hosken congratulated the Clerk on the paper work and his view was echoed by Councillor Morris-Jones.

**79/17 Office Works update** – The Clerk had distributed a report of a meeting held with Borough Officers confirming they would endeavour to stay within the agreed budget for the alterations. Any adjustments made by the Council after work had been done will be financed by the Town Council. It is hoped that final figures will be available by 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**80/17 Bowring** – Cllr Morris-Jones said he had met with the Café tenant who has said he can no longer afford to open the café throughout the week and is currently only operating at the weekend. He feels that the situation will continue until there are more events held in the Bowring Park, suggestions made were; boot sales, firework displays etc. The toilets are opened and locked every day morning and evening. The current problems relating to the diversion of the access road were being investigated by Dave Hanley. The Clerk was asked to investigate if the Bowring contract had been breached.

**81/17 ICM** – The Clerk had distributed a written report and said she had met with Borough Officers today to discuss a way forward with the drink and drugs problem in the town. It had been agreed to approach TACT to carry out a fact finding mission to fully understand the situation and therefore consider any appropriate solutions. Members commented on the structure of the ICM group because there was no member representation. The Clerk explained that it had grown from the weekly telephone call that did not work to meeting at least once a fortnight to tackle issues raised and as such was officer led. Cllr Gorse asked for the acronyms to be explained within the report.

**82/17 Committees Structure** – Members expressed concerns about the current structure and said there were too many committees. The Clerk was asked to add this as an item for discussion to the January 2018 Agenda.

**83/17 Flag Flying Policy** – This item was circulated and members were asked to forward comments to the Town Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Burns and seconded by Cllr Gorse and agreed that any appeal / exceptional circumstances should be considered by the Town Council and this option should be added to the policy.

**84/17 Loo of the Year Award** – Members were informed that the Parade toilets had again been given a Platinum level classification award. Cllr Hosken proposed that 3 staff members attend the award event. This was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Gorse as long as publicity and promotion of the award is extensive. The Clerk was also asked to look at the suggested improvements and

relating costs and bring a report back to P&R.

**85/17 Matters for Information-** The Clerk informed members that Go Carz were moving their business to Wellington Train Station. Cllr Morris-Jones said it was great to see a business moving into rather than out of town.

**86/17 To agree date and time of next meeting – Member agreed as** Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 7.00pm.

**8.00pm In accordance with the Public Admissions to Meetings Act 1960** - It was resolved to go into closed session because of financial and commercial discussions would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**The member of the public present left the meeting at this point.**

**87/17 Budget 2018/19-** Cllr deLauney presented the draft budget which had been drawn up in line with council policies. The following comments were made:

- Floral displays will need to go out to tender this year as we are at the end of the contract
- Cllr Mason Morris asked for a breakdown of the figure into hours relating to Civic personnel costs
- The Council may need to look at extending/updating Christmas Lights therefore increasing the budget
- Cllr Burns thanked Cllr deLauney saying this document was a good start
- Cllr Carter said the document was highlighting regeneration / communication and was aiming in the right direction
- Cllr Hosken asked about the development possibilities for Church Street and Market Street now we have a development at the Clifton site and the new Aldi open. He felt that parking provision was inadequate.
- Cllr Morris –Jones felt there should be re-think perhaps a reversal of traffic flow to bring traffic into the central area. Cllr McClements would be approached to look at options in the Borough's capital programme for Wellington.
- Cllr Hosken said there had been a 25-30 year decline in the town and footfall was still reducing, he felt this situation had not been helped by high levels of rents and rates.

Cllr deLauney gave examples of the yield % increase in precept and asked members to consider the budget within their groupings.

**88/17 Wellington Regeneration Board** – Cllr deLauney gave an overview of the form and function of this board. Extensive debate followed relating to membership, terms of reference, governance, budget, purpose and relationship to existing structures. Members commented the Project Board should be the vehicle used for regeneration. It was agreed ideas would be brought back to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman.....Date.....