

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Denis Allen



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 of the Full Council Meeting held at the Telford Whitehouse Hotel on Tuesday 13th February 2018 commencing at 7:05pm.

Present:

Chair – Cllr C. Mason-Morris	Cllr A. McClements	Cllr J. Gorse
Cllr S. Hall	Cllr J. Alvey	Cllr C. Brittain
Cllr F. Burns	Cllr A. Lowe	Cllr P. Fairclough
Cllr D Roberts	Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr M. Hosken.
Cllr L. Carter	Cllr S. deLauney	Cllr S Fikeis
Cllr P. McCarthy	Cllr G. Cook	Cllr G. Luter
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE	Cllr K. Tomlinson	

86/17 In attendance - Rev. Nick Brooke from All Saints Church, Sgt Ram Aston (RA), Insp. Gary Wade (GW), Jas Bedesha (JB) from Telford and Wrekin, Tom Robinson (TR) from Pubwatch, Karen Roper–Town Clerk and 4 members of the public.

87/17 Introduction and Welcome – The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, she then asked Rev. Nick Brooke to take prayers.

88/17 Presentation by Jas Bedesha Telford & Wrekin Council, Inspector Gary Wade, Sgt Ram Aston and Tom Robinson – Chairman Pubwatch. – GW addressed the meeting stating the police are still not getting enough feedback from members of the public when incidents are happening and their evidence is needed to impose a Public Space Protection Order. Over the Christmas period shop owners were not reporting thefts, and it is important to get the message out that people should not suffer in silence. It is also about getting the right help for vulnerable people and/or signposting them to the appropriate service such as TACT Man in Place, Kip or other appropriate organisation. If the perpetrators do not engage the Police can issue a Community Protection Order (CPO) or Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) and if unheeded they can be arrested. So far 2 CPO's had been issued regarding the beggars in town and these people have been moved on. GW reported he had been interviewing young people from TCAT and had been inspired by their thoughts on improving things in the Town.

Jas Bedesha gave an overview on the ICM work that had taken place since August 2017. He commented that the parking meters had made a huge difference to the turnover of parking spaces. Fly tipping and commercial waste incidents had been dramatically reduced even though commercial waste is not the Borough Council's responsibility. Borough Council officers are ensuring that people understand their Duty of Care and if they are not managing their waste appropriately, who to contact if they need help or advice. Enforcement visits and prosecutions have been made resulting in a lower number of incidents. Cllr Alvey mentioned Espley Close as suffering from fly tipping. Members were asked to report all problems and information will be collected to understand where the tipping came from through the Borough

wide system. CCTV is being upgraded in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the system controlled at Malinsgate, a small team have been successful at monitoring fly tipping hot spots with mobile equipment.

Street drinking – it was reported these people are generally middle aged, meeting together and drinking to forget complex problems but at present they are not breaking the law. Work is currently being undertaken to signpost people to appropriate services but at this time of year the streets are quiet due to weather conditions. Members suggested provision of an alternative location and safe environment. GW said a branch of TACT had opened a café on the side of Strickland House.

Cllr Alvey informed members the 1871 Act means that cyclists can be prosecuted and referenced the incident where a woman had been injured recently in Market Square. RA said the Police have engaged with the perpetrator who had injured a member of the public. RA said the Police were listening and referenced the representational diagram reporting that it demonstrated only about ¼ of what we have achieved over the past few months. Every Friday and Saturday night there are 67 officers out visiting licensed premises including hotels, clubs and bars gathering intelligence which is shared with the team on Monday morning. Training has been delivered to over 200 bar, shop staff, taxi marshalls anyone on the customer facing front line. The aim is to empower people to recognise problems and where to report them.

Cllr Hosken asked if Licensees still lost their license if they continue to serve inebriated people. RA agreed that they still would and described how the new Pubwatch aims to drive up standards in licensed premises. This will happen through training and Arc Angel checklists that are provided for licenced premises to check for drugs and report problems. Opportunities to design out crime by cutting back vegetation and improving lighting were identified and would be notified to the appropriate person/authority. Cllr Jinks asked about the 'Ask Angela' campaign, RA said he did not think this had been rolled out in the West Mercia area as yet.

Tom Robinson – Chairman of Pub Watch introduced the benefits of the disc software which is essentially a Facebook account for licensees where members can report problems instantly.

- 89/17 Variation of Items on the Agenda** – The Chairman proposed that that item 6 relating to the office move and item 8 are moved to the end of the agenda and taken in closed session. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Luter and was carried.
- 90/17 Apologies** – Were received from Cllr D. Allen because of illness. It was proposed by Cllr Hosken 2nd by Cllr Gorse and agreed by members to accept the apologies.
- 91/17 Declarations of Interests** – None were declared at this time.
- 92/17 To receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2018** – The minutes of 9th January were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Alvey, 2nd by Cllr Cook and agreed as a true record.
- 93/17 Matters arising from those Minutes:**
- **Parking** - Cllr Roberts said she had not received papers for this meeting and was very disappointed, the Clerk said all members had been contacted by group email but would investigate to see if there was a problem. Cllr McClements reported the short stay ticket machines went live 3rd week in June and full enforcement started from September 2017. Signage has been highlighted as an issue between car parks to direct users to alternative car parks if full. Enforcement is happening but the level of fines and complaints have reduced as people have become used to the system. Overall everyone was pleased with results which had achieved the goal of a greater turnover of short stay parking places. It was agreed there should be a limit on the long stay car parks and a survey done by

Telford and Wrekin revealed that the Victoria Road North car park generally has a 20% free capacity of about 20 – 25 spaces. The remaining car parks are full most of the time. Further investigation had been done on all car parks to understand who is using them, for how long, where people are from and where are they going to. The cost of installing additional machines was discussed and estimated at £45-60K. Cllr Morris-Jones said he was disappointed that there is no identified budget at the Borough but the issue could still be looked at particularly if there was some match funding from the town. It was agreed to take this to the P&R Committee. It was agreed that a stay of 9 hours would be trialled for the long stay car park at the Health Centre and an extra 30 spaces allocated for long stay parking. The machines were already installed but needed reprogramming and a new Legal Order obtained.

- **Alteration of Traffic Flow in Market Street – Cllr Morris-Jones** had put forward the idea of changing traffic flow from Bridge Road /the new Aldi, Morrisons and development of the Clifton site to be redirected into the Town rather than away from it. It was commented that Market Street is one of the few streets without lots of empty shops. T&W were asked to produce some design work for Market Street for the next meeting. Cllr Lowe suggested there should be a filter lane towards Aldi from the traffic lights at Grooms Alley as this is a major problem for traffic trying to turn into Grooms Alley.
- **Station Road** – It was reported that this is in a poor state of repair, it is unadopted and privately owned but partly maintained by Telford and Wrekin. Matt said he would look at what could be done to improve it
- **Town Council Newsletter** – The Clerk said a draft would be available shortly and would try to include topical issues and financial information. Cllr Roberts asked that dog mess is highlighted as a major problem.

94/17 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.

a) Planning Committee meeting of 10.01.18 - Cllr Alvey presented the minutes, these were 2nd by Cllr de Launey and agreed by members as a true record. Christmas street traders were discussed and the issue was deferred to the next planning meeting. TWC/2017/1028 Haygate Road Wellington vehicle access during construction, the committee has registered their concerns.

Cllr Tomlinson raised the issue of 'land grab' where people claim strips of land they have looked after over time and the problems it causes, Cllr Alvey said the committee were very careful with land boundaries and would generally check appropriate applications with the Land Registry.

TWC/2017/0706 site of Swan Hotel meeting was attended by Cllr Alvey. He said there was a previous application to widen the road but this seems to have been forgotten. Cllr Roberts said she was disappointed at the application as this is currently a significant building and any replacement needs to represent a gateway to the town. Cllr McCarthy said that many pubs were not sustainable in today's climate. The view of the committee was against the proposal

b) Planning Committee meeting of 31.01.18 Minute Ref/133/17 Cllr Alvey commented he felt that Lesley Street had been missed off the street naming list. Cllr Alvey expressed his concern relating to retrospective applications and thanked members of the committee for their hard work. The minutes were seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed by members.

c) Promotions & Liaison Committee held 24.01.18- the minutes were presented by Cllr Carter, 2nd by Cllr Fairclough and agreed as a true record.

d) Wellington Festival Committee meeting of 18.01.18 - Cllr Mason Morris presented the minutes and brought the Spring Festival to the attention of members. The minutes were seconded by Cllr Fairclough and agreed as a true record.

95/17 Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 06.02.18 – Cllr Burns presented the minutes; these were 2nd Cllr Lowe and agreed by members as a true record.

a) West Midlands Rail – Members asked that the letter be circulated

b) Clinical Commissioning Group – The Clerk confirmed attendance at the next full council meeting as requested

c) Pubwatch - Cllr Burns confirmed the Council had withdrawn its administration support for Pubwatch at the present time due to discord between the members.

d) Bowring Café - Cllr Morris Jones highlighted consistent problems with the café and had resigned as Chairman because he would not take responsibility for the building remaining empty and at risk of vandalism. It was proposed by Cllr Carter, 2nd by Cllr McClements and agreed by members to refer this matter back to P&R.

e) Improved Signage – Cllr Burns said he was happy to work with Staff to develop a form so that each Councillor could survey the needs in their own Ward for new signs, cleaning/maintenance and/or removal of signs. Cllr Hosken suggested the West Team could assist in the cleaning and removal of obscuring foliage. Members commented that *'Welcome to Wellington'* signs are needed at various points approaching the town.

It was proposed by Cllr Mason Morris seconded by Cllr Lowe and RESOLVED by members that the Town Council close the meeting to the public and press at 21:05hrs and move into private session.

96/17 To Receive Urgent Matters For Information Only.

- **WEST Report.**- The Clerk had tabled a report of the team's activities.

97/17 To agree the date of the next meeting as – 13th March 2018

Signed13th March 2018