

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 in the new meeting room on **Tuesday, 6th February 2018** commencing at 7.00pm.

Cllr F. Burns – Chairman	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr L. Carter	Cllr A. Lowe
Cllr. C. Mason-Morris	Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE	Cllr M. Hosken	

In attendance – Cllr P. Fairclough, one member of the public and Karen Roper - Town Clerk.

- 121/17 **Welcome** – Cllr Burns acted as chairman in the absence of Cllr deLauney.
- 122/17 **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S. deLauney due to illness.
- 123/17 **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.
- 124/17 **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd January 2018** – Were proposed by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Councillor Lowe and RESOLVED by members as a true and accurate record.
- 125/17 **Matters arising from those minutes–**
- **Office Move** – The Clerk reported on progress with the building work and said that the artefacts had been photographed so members can now decide where they should go in the space available. Cllr Morris-Jones gave notice to members of a proposal going to Full Council that the Town Council Staff take full control of the renting and caretaking duties. Cllr Carter asked if a fully costed proposal would be going forward to Full Council?
 - **Wellington Health Centre** – The Clerk said the CCG representatives had agreed to attend the March meeting of Full Council.
 - **Traffic Flow and Parking** – The Clerk said there was a meeting booked for 7th February
 - **Station Upgrade** – The Clerk said the joint letter had now been sent, members asked for a copy to be circulated.
 - **Pub Watch** – The Clerk reported that another fight had taken place in Wellington at the weekend during which the Funeral Directors windows were smashed. Staff were reporting they were unhappy about the way things were going with the pubwatch group. Cllr Mason Morris said that the Council would be responsible for data protection issues if we were to operate the disc system. Cllr Hosken suggested these issues should be discussed at the upcoming Integrated Community Management meeting. The Clerk said there would be an opportunity for members to ask the ICM group questions at the February meeting of Full Council.
- 126/17 **Finance** – Reports were presented for December 2017 / January 2018.

Cllr Hosken proposed the accounts referenced a,b,&d,e on the agenda for acceptance, this was seconded by Cllr Carter and agreed by members.

- **Wellington United Charities** – The Clerk reported that a meeting date for the Trustees would be set in April.
- **Banking Update** – The Clerk said the Nat West Bank account should close imminently.
- **Loan Application** – The Clerk said that the idea of the Council borrowing money to invest in the regeneration of Wellington had gone out on Social Media and was receiving positive support. Cllr Mason Morris said the sample was a small percentage of the total electorate.
- **POW and Community Food Bank** – The Clerk said that the requested information from these organisations had not been received. Cllr Carter suggested the process is looked at to prevent applicants thinking that grants are automatically given.
- **Grant Panel**- Members agreed to move the panel meeting to April.

127/17 Budget 2018/19 – The Clerk said that Telford and Wrekin had been informed of the amount to be precepted and the forms were duly completed.

128/17 Bowring Working Group – Cllr Morris-Jones said that the Café had recently not been opening the agreed hours but the lease holders had been opening and looking after the toilets. He suggested the lease should be terminated as the current holder had not kept to the agreed terms and conditions. A local businessman had approached the Town Council to take over the Cafe and toilets to run a dessert and delivery company. The following points were made:

- Update the provisions of the lease and send a formal letter
- There should be a deposit paid by any new tenant
- The legal process should be adhered to
- There seemed to be a similar dessert company looking to invest in the town centre – is this too close to make it a viable business proposition?
- Cllr Mason Morris expressed concern over the process and suggested we should go out to tender to give others the opportunity to apply
- Concern was expressed over the likely increased traffic flow

The Chairman read a prepared statement of his views to members and the Chairman of the Bowring Working group resigned.

Cllr Carter proposed that the details of the offer is explored and brought to the next P&R committee this was 2nd by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members.

129/17 Matters of Concern –

- Cllr Hosken said the Shropshire Star was reporting the opening of a new drop in centre in the town square. It was agreed this would be discussed at the next ICM meeting.
- Heron Foods – Cllr Hosken said he had witnessed assaults outside the shop and commented that New Street is becoming an area to avoid because of intimidation and harassment. He expressed concern at the time taken for the Police to respond (about 12 mins). It was agreed this would be discussed at the next ICM meeting.

130/17 Regeneration Board - Cllr Mason-Morris asked if the project board had now been replaced by the Regeneration Board? The Town Clerk said she had not yet done the terms of reference (TOR) document but felt that this would be the case, Cllr Carter requested the TOR be done as it was also requested last month.

- **Town Council Newsletter** –The Clerk issued an initial draft page
- **Social Media** – Staff have been active this month getting information out about regeneration
- **Website** – It was agreed that improvements would be made to the Wellington Town Council website.

131/17 Signage – Cllr Lowe said the signage is worth doing and is important to Wellington. It was proposed that existing signage is cleaned. Cllr Gorse suggested that Councillors consider their

own areas.

Cllr Carter proposed that Full Council considers the following;

- This is urgent
- All members should have an input by identifying the need for signage in their ward
- Work with Caroline as the P&L committee were already looking at this.

This was 2nd by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members.

- 132/17 Visioning and Governance** – The Clerk was asked to distribute the draft action plan again and that discussion on this item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 133/17 Current Structure** – The Clerk was asked to distribute the draft structure document again and that discussion on this item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 134/17 Lost Property Protocol** - The Clerk presented an updated draft policy, members were asked to feed in comments and suggestions for improvements. The document will be brought back to the March meeting for approval.
- 135/17 To agree date and time of next meeting** – As Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 7.00pm.

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