

# Wellington Town Council

*Town Mayor*  
**Cllr Cindy Mason-Morris**



*Town Clerk*  
**KAREN ROPER**  
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## **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 commencing at 7:05pm.**

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:** Karen Roper, Town Clerk, 5 members of the public, Police Inspector Gary Wade and Reverend Tim Carter.

**Prayers** – Cllr Mason- Morris called on Reverend Carter to lead prayers.

**EDL – March 12<sup>th</sup> May** – The Clerk had distributed a letter and a map to all Councillors from the Police and had agreed that the letter would be delivered to all businesses by staff on Wednesday. Cllr Mason-Morris informed the meeting of a press statement issued by church leaders and a statement made by the Telford Trade Union Council against the march taking place. She then asked Inspector Wade to update members. He said that the Police are assuring members of the public in Wellington that they are prepared for a 200 strong protest march by the English Defence League (EDL) in the town on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and are working with partners to make sure disruption is kept to a minimum. The latest information is that at around 1pm, the EDL march will follow a short route through Wellington ending in the square where there will be a number of speeches. A small counter protest is also expected to take place nearby. Police have been engaging with both groups to understand their plans in order to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum and a proportionate policing response is implemented.

The right to peaceful protest is a fundamental democratic right; the police do not have the power to stop a protest taking place. It is only if there is compelling evidence there is a real threat of violent disorder and risk to public safety in advance of the protest that an application can then be made to the Home Secretary for an order prohibiting the event going ahead. On this occasion there are no legal grounds to prohibit the protest.

The Police have robust plans in place to deal with any eventuality and the reality may only be up to 80 protesters. They have over the past few weeks been working with the event organisers, partner agencies and the wider community in the town to ensure there will be minimal disruption. The police response will include officers with Tasers and on hand will be dogs, horses and up to 30 vans carrying 7 to 8 officers. The cost of policing the event can be obtained under a freedom of information request.

Councillors were very concerned about Market Square being used and were disappointed that the Lion pub was the starting point. They suggested other routes and end points to the march and the Clerk was asked to send an email confirming their views following the meeting tonight in the hope that decisions can still be influenced.

7.45pm – Inspector Wade, Rev. Carter, Cllrs Fikeis and McCarthy left the meeting

**01/18 Election of Mayor** - Acting Mayor; Cllr Mason Morris called for nominations for Mayor: Cllr Morris-Jones proposed Cllr Mason-Morris and was seconded by Cllr McClements.

There being no further nominations, it was agreed UNANIMOUSLY that Cllr Mason - Morris be elected to serve as Mayor for the next twelve months. Cllr Morris-Jones as immediate past Mayor presented the chain of office to Cllr Mason-Morris. The new Mayor then presented the Consort's chain of office to her Husband.

**02/18 Signing by the Incoming Mayor of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Mason -Morris duly signed the Acceptance of Office form, witnessed by the Clerk.

**03/18 New Mayor's Address** – Cllr Mason-Morris said she was respectful to Cllr Allen and had enjoyed standing in for him. She believed it was a very exciting time for her to become Mayor as there seem to be a buzz about the town. She had opened 3 new businesses and the Help for Heroes event this weekend and would start to inform members of her engagements on a regular basis. Her ambition was to promote Wellington; the community groups and business in Wellington and she identified her charities for this year as:

- Man-in-Place
- Shropshire Cat Rescue PURR Project

Cllr Gorse said that last year had been a difficult year for both the Council and for the Allen family and she thanked Cllr Mason –Morris for working so hard acting as his Deputy throughout this period.

**04/18 Apologies** - Were received from Cllr K Tomlinson due to illness and Cllr M Hosken, due to another meeting taking priority.

**05/18 Declarations of Interest** - None forwarded

**06/18 Election of Deputy Mayor** - Cllr Mason-Morris called for nominations. Cllr Lowe was proposed and seconded, there being no further nominations, it was agreed UNANIMOUSLY that Cllr Lowe be elected to serve as Deputy Mayor for the next twelve months. Cllr Mason Morris handed over the Deputy Mayor's chain of office.

**07/18 Election of Policy & Resources Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor ex officio)**

Cllr Mason- Morris called for nominations for the Policy & Resources Committee. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the following Councillors serve as the Policy and Resources Committee with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (each ex officio) for the next twelve months.

Cllrs: Hosken, Morris-Jones, Fikeis, Gorse, Burns, Carter and de-Launey.

**08/18 Election of Planning Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor ex officio)**

Cllr Mason-Morris called for nominations for the Planning Committee.

Cllrs: Alvey, Roberts, Jinks, deLauney, Luter, Morris-Jones and Burns were proposed and duly seconded.

There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve as the Planning Committee with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (ex officio) for the next twelve months.

**09/18 Election of Promotions & Liaison Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor and Deputy Mayor *ex officio*)**

Cllr Mason - Morris called for nominations for the Promotions & Liaison Committee. Cllrs: Brittain, Alvey, Hall, Fairclough, McClements, Gorse and Carter were proposed and duly seconded.

There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (*ex officio*) as the Promotions & Liaison Committee for the next twelve months.

**10/18 Election of the Wellington Festival Committee (6 vacancies + Mayor and Deputy Mayor *ex officio*)**

Cllr Mason-Morris called for nominations for the Wellington Festival Committee. Cllrs: Brittain, Alvey, Mason-Morris, Fairclough, Gorse and Luter, were proposed and duly seconded.

There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve with the Deputy Mayor (*ex officio*) as the Festival Committee for the next twelve months.

**11/18 Election of presently active working groups and Town Council representatives on outside bodies**

**a) Conservation Area Working Group-** Cllr Mason-Morris called for nominations for the Conservation Area Working Group. Cllrs Brittain, Morris-Jones and Tomlinson were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve as Members of the Conservation Area Working Group for the next twelve months.

**b) Car Parking Working Group -** Cllr Mason-Morris called for nominations for the Car Parking Working Group Cllrs: deLauney, McClements, Gorse, Roberts and Morris-Jones were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the above Cllrs were duly elected to serve as Members of the Car Parking Working Group for the next twelve months.

**c) The Wellington Town Partnership (2 vacancies)-** Cllr Mason-Morris called for nominations, Cllrs: Gorse and Roberts were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations Cllrs: Gorse and Roberts were duly elected to represent the Town Council on the Wellington Town Partnership.

**d) Shropshire Association of Local Councils - Wrekin Area Committee (2 vacancies)-** Cllrs: Mason-Morris and Alvey were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations Cllrs Mason Morris and Alvey were duly elected to represent the Town Council on the Shropshire Association of Local Councils - Wrekin Area Committee.

**e) Telford Bus Users Group (2 vacancies) -** Cllr Mason-Morris called for nominations Cllrs Roberts and Cook were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations it was agreed Cllrs Roberts and Cook should represent the Town Council on the Telford Bus Users Group.

**f) Wrekin Forest Partnership -** Cllr Mason-Morris called for nominations Cllr Brittain was proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations it was agreed that Cllr Brittain would represent the Town Council on the Wrekin Forest Partnership Group.

**g) Walkers are Welcome-** Cllr Mason-Morris called for nominations, Cllr Roberts was proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations it was agreed that Cllr Roberts should represent the Town Council on Walker are Welcome.

**12/18 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2018**

Proposed: Cllr Alvey, seconded Cllr Morris-Jones and RESOLVED that the minutes of the

meeting held on 10th April 2018 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record.

### **13/18 Matters Arising**

**a) Signage** – Cllr Burns thanked members for responding and said a rough first draft of the list of actions needed had been circulated but this was a living document that will be updated on a regular basis. Cllr Alvey thanked Cllr Burns for his work on this subject. Cllr Burns confirmed it was not too late for additional submissions.

**b) Wellington Regeneration Board** – Cllr Lowe requested the Clerk circulated the regeneration board minutes to Full Council as a matter of course. Cllr Carter said it was the Boards' intention to produce a newsletter highlighting the achievements of the past 6 months.

### **14/18 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.**

**a) Planning Committee 25.04.18** – Cllr Alvey presented the minutes which were 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Luter and agreed as a true record.

**b) Promotions & Liaison Committee 25.04.18** – Cllr McClements presented the minutes which were 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Mason Morris and agreed as a true record. Cllr Jinks commented on the noticeboard at the Dothill Nature Reserve, Cllr Lowe said the key he had been given does not fit Shawbirch and gave it to the Town Clerk. T&W Cllr B. Tillotson had returned a key which does not fit the Dothill noticeboard. This issue will be forwarded to P&L.

**c) Wellington Festival Committee 19.04.18** – Cllr Mason-Morris presented the minutes which were 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Gorse. Cllr Fairclough said the Spring Festival went really well with a very varied programme. C. Mulvihill has asked the committee to consider that the October Festival to be reduced to 1 week in October and run for 2 weeks in Spring next year. Cllr Mason Morris said the Rastrick and Brighthouse Brass Band had been booked, Cllr Lowe asked if the Spring festival events would clash with the elections, the dates would be checked.

**d) Policy & Resources Committee 01.05.18** – Cllr deLauney presented the minutes and made the following comments.

- **Newsletter** – Reports had been received that some people had not received the newsletter and members were urged to inform the Clerk of the locations that were missed.
- **Clifton Project** – Members were informed that the group now have planning permission.
- **Data Protection Officer** – The Chairman reported that there had been an amendment issued by Government which removed the official requirement for parishes to appoint a DPO officer. Despite this Policy and Resources were recommending appointing Telford and Wrekin for the first 3 years.
- **Personnel Committee** – the committee had agreed to the NJC and contractual pay awards for this year.
- **Bowring Café** - The following points were made:
  - A 3 year lease with a break clause should be advertised and there should be agreement as to its contents by full council
  - 500 people in the park at a bowling match Shropshire vs Merseyside and the Café shut at 2.00pm
  - Toilets not up to an expected standard

- Members felt there has been a breach of contract and it needs to be resolved quickly
- **Office**
  - **Leases** – These had been checked through and were now ready to sign
  - **Redecoration** – Walls in the meeting room had been repainted and artefacts would be placed following a meeting with the task and finish group.
- **Parking** – Cllr Roberts said she had recently counted spaces at the Health Centre car Park and only 8 were available yet 30 spaces were being allocated for long stay parking. It was confirmed again that the proposal is a trial to determine the success of the project.
- **Regeneration Board** – The Chairman said it might be necessary to redact any sensitive issues with the minutes prior to wider circulation.
- **EDL March** – The Chairman said he was saddened by the march taking place on Saturday but it would not stop the regeneration work.

**15/18 Conservation Working Group Minutes of 02.05.18-** These would be circulated as soon as possible.

#### **16/18 General Power of Competence**

The Council agreed that the following three conditions for eligibility for the Town Council to be enabled to exercise the General Power of Competence are as follows:

Resolution: the council must resolve at a meeting that it meets the criteria for eligibility relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the clerk.

Electoral mandate: at the time the resolution is passed, at least two thirds of the council must hold office as a result of being declared elected (i.e. not co-opted).

Qualified Clerk: At the time that the resolution is passed, the clerk must hold a recognised professional qualification (e.g. Certificate in Local Council Administration, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy) AND pass the 2012 CiLCA module relating to the General Power of Competence.

As a result of satisfying the above criteria it was proposed by Cllr deLauney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Burns and agreed unanimously by the Council to pass the following resolution:

Wellington Town Council resolves from 8th May 2018, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

**17/18 Wellington Environmental Services Team Report** – Cllr deLauney proposed to note the report.-

**18/18 Minutes of the Town Assembly** dated 17<sup>th</sup> April – would be circulated to members.

#### **19/18 To receive urgent matters (for information only)**

- Update on Dothill Vacancy – members had received the following timetable.

Receipt of Nominations	4:00 pm Thursday 10 May 2018
Withdrawal of Candidate	4:00 pm Thursday 10 May 2018
Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated	4:00 pm Friday 11 May 2018
Last Date for Registration	Monday 21 May 2018
Amendments / Cancellations to existing postal votes	5:00 pm Tuesday 22 May 2018
Issue postal votes	by Friday 25 May 2018
Publication of Notice of Poll	Wednesday 30 May 2018
Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Wednesday 30 May 2018
Appointment of Poll and Count Agents	Thursday 31 May 2018
First Day to Issue Replacement Lost Postal Ballot Papers	Friday 1 June 2018
Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 7 June 2018
Last Day to Issue Replacement Spoilt or Lost Postal Ballot Papers	5:00 pm Thursday 7 June 2018
Day of Poll	7:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 7 June 2018
Declaration of Candidates Expenses	Thursday 5 July 2018

- **Proposal for Governance Review** - Cllr Burns said there was a large development on Haygate Road in Wrockwardine Parish yet the people would be using services in Wellington and it was felt that a Boundary review might be needed. It was proposed by Cllr deLauney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Burns and agreed that this item be researched and put on the agenda for the June meeting.
- **Haygate Public House** – Cllr Alvey reported the building was now flattened to make way for the housing development
- **Help For Heroes** – Cllr Alvey reported this had again been a fantastic event with a record number of people attending.
- **Wellington Cottage Care Charity Shop** - Cllr Alvey reported that sadly the Cottage Care Trust charity shop is closing after 22 years trading in Wellington.

**20/18 The date of the next Full Council Meeting** – Was agreed as 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018

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