Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr D. Roberts

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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th OCTOBER 2022.

Held face to face at Civic Offices commencing at 7.00pm and livestreamed on Facebook.

Present

Cllr S. de Launey (Chairman)	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr. P. Davis
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE		

Also in attendance: A. Roberts – Deputy Town Clerk, Cllr A Lowe – Deputy Town Mayor (ex-officio) and Cllr P Fairclough

57/22 **Welcome –** Cllr de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

58/22 **Apologies for Absence** – Members noted and approved apologies from Cllrs Carter and Hall due to illness and Cllr Hosken due to him being on holiday. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr P Davis. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

59/22 **Declarations of Interest** – Members noted that Cllr Morris-Jones MBE declared his interest relating to Wellington Orbit if any items arose during the meeting.

60/22 **To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2022 –** The minutes (Appendix 1 and 2) were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Davis he was seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr P Davis. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

61/22 **Matters Arising**

a. **George Evans Tribute –** The Clerk reported that that a response was still awaited from the Evans family in relation to the text for the proposed storybook and that the family had been chased. Members suggested that if there was no response that the proposed text should be formulated and forwarded to the family for approval in order to progress matters further.

b. **SIDs** – The Clerk reported that the units remained as follows at two locations within Holyhead Road and the other unit in Haygate Road. Members were informed that one of the units in Holyhead Road had recently been moved following a resident request. In relation to the unit currently located in Haygate Road an email of thanks had been received from a local resident that the SID was located adjacent to the new housing development and that they had noted that the position of the SID had resulted in a positive behavioural aspect for drivers seeking to observe the speed limit. Members were keen to note the comments that had been received. Cllr Davis concurred with the comments that had been reported and that it would be interesting to examine the data accordingly.

c. **Old Chapel Electrical Work –** it was reported that whilst the former chapel remained the long term aim for the Town Council storage facility, a difficulty had arisen that the former chapel was located on consecrated land and the Diocese would be required to be consulted and to provide permission for any future works. Following on from this the Borough Council had suggested an alternative premises situated off Crescent Road on the same terms as that for the former Chapel which would be used on a temporary basis until the works had been concluded within the Chapel. The Committee were further informed of the requirement to vacate the current storage unit in the Indoor Market, with the materials stored being moved to the temporary location.

d. **Planters –** It had been agreed at E&C that the trees would be move to the Dothill Nature Reserve in early course by the Town Council's WEST team and that further conversations would be required with Telford & Wrekin Council in relation to the actual containers and soil; the wooden surrounds would be repurposed for use as bug hotels and other bio diversity projects.

e. **Cyclists Dismount Signs –** The Clerk reported that the relevant signs were due for installation by Telford and Wrekin Council very shortly. Cllr Lowe reported on a site meeting with a Telford & Wrekin Council officer, and reported on identifying location and various issues.

f. **Digital Board** – Cllr Davis provided an updated report on the provision of an alternative provision, within Market Square. He had approached three companies for further information and confirmed that he would report back when further information and options were available.

g. **Water Rates –** The Chairman referred to the previous meeting and that enquiry was made at the meeting in relation to potential double entry that had been recorded – by way of response it was confirmed that the identical payments related to two separate calendar months.

h. **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to attend September Full Council Meeting –** The Chairman reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner would not be available to attend the November Full Council meeting and that a revised date was currently being arranged. This was duly noted.

i. **Hanging Baskets –** Members were advised that at present the hanging baskets would be removed in early course. Members were advised that a survey would be undertaken which would assist to advise on revised locations for future years. It was further mentioned that a map would be prepared showing present locations, which would be of further assistance. The Chairman also commented that further provision within Market Street was being provided as part of the present works.

62/22 **Finance –** Cllr S deLauney proposed and Cllr P Davis seconded acceptance of items a-d listed below. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr P. Davis and Cllr J. Gorse. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

a. **To agree receipts** for August 2022
b. **To agree payments** for August 2022
c. **To agree Petty Cash** for August 2022
d. **Receipts/Payments –** compared with budget as at 31st August 2022.
e. **End of Year Accounts Update –** The Clerk reported that the External Auditor had completed the Annual Audit and that there were no substantial enquires or comments raised for the year ending 31 March 2022 and the auditors had issued their final interim report. It was further noted that their final report would be issued within the next week or so.

63/22 **Borrowing Approval –** the Chairman had confirmed that the final borrowing approval had now been issued and that a formal final offer was now awaited. Members were advised on the recent impact of the interest rate increases which had accordingly impacted on the repayment amount that had been originally budgeted. The Chairman reported that currently interest rates were in excess of 5% - he suggested that the Town Council should await for their final offer which would indicate the interest rate to be charged and consider future options.

64/22 **To receive the Regeneration Board Report –** The Chairman reported that the minutes of the September Board meeting were sent out with the agenda and members were invited to ask questions. It was noted that the Chairman had been absent from the meeting that had been chaired by Cllr Morris-Jones the Chairman further reported that an item that had been considered by the Board was to be considered during the confidential element of this meeting. The Chairman invited any questions but none were forthcoming and the report was noted accordingly. Cllr Morris-Jones commented on the technology issues that had been experienced and enquired as to whether these meetings should be held on a "face to face" basis in the future, and suggested as to whether a hybrid situation should be pursued. The Chairman whilst acknowledging these comments reminded the meeting that this was a matter for the Regeneration Board and would be raised accordingly. Cllr Gorse enquired as to whether this matter could be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

65/22 **To receive an update on Market Street Work –** the Chairman reported that the work had been noted to progressing well when he had inspected the same. Cllr Morris-Jones had confirmed these comments but had noted that work was in operation Monday to Friday with no weekend working. The Chairman commented that any weekend working would have resulted in higher costs to be borne. Cllr Gorse commented that she had concluded that the work was of excellent quality and was of a far higher standard then she had thought. The Chairman also commented that the street lighting which would be installed would be of a "period style" the cost of which might be requested to be borne by the Town Council but that the provision of these specific lights would enhance the overall scheme design.

66/22 **The next meeting date was agreed as 1st November 2022 commencing at 7:00pm**

67/22 **Closure of Meeting** – The Chairman proposed closure of the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Local Government Act 1972, this was seconded by Cllr Davis and resolved accordingly. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P Morris-Jones, Cllr P. Davis and Cllr J. Gorse. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

Chairman……………………………………………………1st November 2022