

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr P. Davis.



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

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd JANUARY 2024 at CIVIC OFFICES COMMENCING at 7.00pm.

Present

Cllr Carter (Chairman)	Cllr. Pierce	Cllr. Gorse	Cllr. Cook	Cllr. de Launey	Cllr McGinn
------------------------	--------------	-------------	------------	-----------------	-------------

Also in attendance: P. Davis - Town Mayor

- 85/23 **Welcome from the Chairman** – Cllr Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members to agree to the meeting to be recorded in the absence of the Clerk. Members agreed.
- 86/23 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Luter and Karen Roper due to illness – apologies accepted
- 87/23 **Declarations of Interest** – None received
- 88/23 **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 and confidential minutes of 5th December 2023 (appendix 1 & 2).** These were proposed by Cllr de Launey, seconded by Cllr Gorse and the following members RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that both sets of minutes for the meeting held on 5th December were approved, Cllrs Carter, Pierce, Gorse, Cook, de Launey and McGinn.
- 89/23 **Matters Arising**
- **DBS responses** – The list of outstanding DBS completions is slowly being reduced
 - **Email addresses** – Will fully transfer over by the end of January.
- 90/23 **Finance Report -**
- a) **To agree receipts** for November 2023
- b) **To agree payments** for November 2023
- c) **To agree Petty Cash** for November 2023
- d) **Receipts/Payments** – compared with budget as at 30th November 2023
- Proposed by Cllr de Launey, seconded by Cllr Cook and the following members Cllrs Carter, Pierce, Gorse, Cook de Launey and McGinn RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that items a,b,c, and d are all approved with no further comments.
- e) **Brief Financial Report** – members had received the report and there were no further questions.
- f) **Unity Bank Application** – The Clerk will provide a fuller report upon her return but WTC now had an account with Unity Bank. The SUM number is still outstanding.
- g) **Payroll transfer to Telford and Wrekin** - The process is ¾ of the way through – WTC are still paying the salaries but T & W are providing the payroll reports which is a big step forward.

91/23

To agree the Draft Budget 2024/2025 for approval of Full Council on 9th January 2024 – the report had been tabled.

Cllr Carter thanked Cllr de Launey and the Clerk for pulling the budget together. The 4 year priorities for WTC were addressed. It was deemed the part time Locality Manager was now needed on a full time to cover ongoing environmental projects. As this position is shared with T & W, WTC would see a 50% cost increase.

All wards across T & W have received feedback from residents regarding parking outside schools and antisocial behaviour. Improvements regarding these issues would need enforcement action through the CAT model, so it has been proposed that officers are required to increase their time from 2 days to 5 days a week. This is again at a cost of 50% increase with the other 50% contribution coming from T & W.

WTC would like to maintain the budget for planting in the Bowring Park and current environmental projects across the parish with additional planting in Ercall ward. Support would continue for community groups like the Wellington (Telford) Brass Band and facilities such as the Arlestone community centre and their initiatives. WTC would now target some grant funding to specific causes, projects and programmes.

Regeneration budget would be maintained along with the provision of events with the expenditure to continue at current levels. The LW contract and TIOU magazine would also continue.

There was an increase in staff costs due to the 4.5% national pay award. Core contracts costs are also expected to increase for Christmas Lights, the Parade toilets and hanging baskets. The Parade toilets cost £20K net with very little income but WTC are committed to maintain this service.

The committee room is on track to generate £8 – 10k in room hire.

The Bowring café contract was signed before May 2023 and has a set income as predicted in the budget.

Cash reserves are less than ideal. Recommendation for cash reserves are laid down by Nalc and Salc who suggest 6 months of reserves but WTC aim to keep approx. 2 months due to WTC being at low risk of a need to call on reserves.

The Increase for 2024/2025 is the largest increase proposed for many years at 18.47% and the main reason for this is that there are no balances left.

The increase in expenditure of 8.63% is mainly due to the improved proposed CAT services and the full time Locality Manager which accounts for 5.18%, without these costs the basic increase would be 3.45%.

T & W are expected to make a 4.99% increase and other parishes will be increasing as they are all facing the same pressures. Wellington will still be one of the lowest band D councils, even after the proposed increase, from £74.01 to £87.68.

Cllr Davis also thanked those involved in budget planning.

The budget was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr de Launey, and the following members, Cllrs Carter, Pierce, Gorse, Cook, de Launey and McGinn. UNANIMOUSLY AGREED the draft budget is ready for Full Council approval.

92/23 To propose a precept for 2024 / 2025 for approval at Full Council on 9th January 2024 of £628,369.00

The precept was proposed by Cllr de Launey, seconded by Cllr Cook, and the following members Cllrs Carter, Pierce, Gorse, Cook, de Launey and McGinn RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the draft precept is ready for full council approval.

93/23 The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 6th February 2024.
Apologies received from Cllr de Launey and Cllr Carter. This means that members will have to elect a chair at the February meeting.

94/23 To consider closure of the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Local Government Act 1972, to discuss the remaining items on the agenda:

Proposed by Cllr de Launey, seconded by Cllr McGinn and Cllrs Carter, Pierce, Gorse, Cook de Launey and McGinn UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the meeting would now move into closed session for the remaining items on the agenda.

Chairman..... 6th February 2024

