

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr D. Roberts



Town Clerk
KAREN ROPER
B.A (HONS) DMS
Civic Offices, Larkin Way
Tan Bank, Wellington
sTelford TF1 1LX
Tel: 01952 567697
Email: wellingtontowncouncil@telford.gov.uk
www.wellington-shropshire.gov.uk

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd January 2023.

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

Present

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

Also in attendance: K. Roper – Town Clerk,

- 98/22 Welcome** – Cllr de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a very happy New Year.
- 99/22 Apologies for Absence** – Members noted and approved apologies from Cllr Hosken due to illness. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr S Hall, Cllr L Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr P. Davis. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 100/22 Declarations of Interest** – Members noted that Cllr Morris-Jones MBE declared his interest relating to Wellington Orbit. The following members unanimously accepted his declaration of interest, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr S Hall, Cllr L Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr P. Davis. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 101/22 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 and the Confidential Minutes of 6th December 2022** – Both sets of minutes were proposed as a true and accurate records by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE, he was seconded by Cllr J Gorse. The following members voted unanimously in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr S. Hall, Cllr L Carter Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr P. Davis. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 102/22 Matters Arising**
- **Orbit** – Cllr de Launey said that over the Christmas period the Orbit had suggested they prefer to wait for the outcome of the Levelling Up funding bid before issuing any press releases about purchasing the building. He said therefore it seemed appropriate that a joint press release is issued mid to late January.
 - **Bowring** – The Chairman reported that negotiations were taking place and the current lease has a further 2 years to run. He hoped a new lease agreement would be backdated to January 2023.
 - **WEST** – The Clerk said a back pack blower has been purchased and a further unit is on order and due for delivery at the end of January. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said it is absolutely essential that the team are given the right tools for the job.
 - **Toilets**- The Clerk reported on vandalism to the Parade toilets with all mirrors being smashed and replaced with stainless steel. She also reported that a portaloo had been installed and funded by Telford and Wrekin for the early morning bus drivers, the chairman asked that a solution be found without the use of a portaloo unit. There was also an incident at the Bowring toilets of a toilet seat being smashed and pieces of it being forced into the sewer pipe causing blockages to all toilets.

- **Lease of Premises** – The Clerk said the paperwork was being finalised for the lower library premises.
- **George Evans Memorial** – The order had been placed for the plaque and delivery was expected by the end of January / February. The Chairman requested the Clerk draw up potential options for a dedication ceremony for the February meeting to discuss. Cllr Davis asked that the volunteer gardeners be contacted to enhance the area before the event. Members agreed it might be better to wait until springtime when there were some flowers blooming in the garden.

103/22 Finance –Cllr de Launey said the reports were circulated with the agenda and proposed acceptance of items a-d listed below. Cllr P. Davis seconded and the following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse, Cllr. P. Davis and Cllr S. Hall. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

- To agree receipts** for November 2022
- To agree payments** for November 2022
- To agree Petty Cash** for November 2022
- Receipts/Payments** – compared with budget as at 30th November 2022.

Cllr Morris-Jones MBE asked if funds had been transferred into the proposed interest bearing accounts. Cllr de Launey said the paperwork had been done but we were waiting for final signatures.

104/22 Regeneration Board Meeting held on 21st December 2022-.Cllr de Launey said the report had been circulated and Sally Themans had reported that work was about to start to install a lift on either railway platform to allow access for the less able and pushchair users. No one had consulted the Borough or Town Council and it was felt this was a missed opportunity to create a transport hub by linking up with the bus station. This project was announced 4 years ago and due to inflation the funding would not provide as much at today's prices. Sally was also looking at working with Visit Shropshire and how we can support our high street businesses. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said in his view this work needs to be escalated as the traders face a tough first quarter of the year and need all the help we can give.

105/22 Market Street Works – Cllr. de Launey said phase 2 would start next week and would include details such as hanging baskets and litter bins and road markings. Cllr Carter said when the road markings are complete people should be aware that parking enforcement will be taking place. It was reported that 'Wilkos' car park at the bottom of Market Street had been closed by its private owners without any communication with either the Borough or Town Council. Cllr Carter said the car park is in a dangerous condition and the rubbish on the site was not being handled properly. It was hoped that a way forward could be negotiated to improve not just the car park but other buildings in private ownership that are being left to deteriorate in the town. He added that the small traders had been brilliant whilst the Market Street work was being done.

Cllr Gorse asked that information about the car park be put on social media to signpost people to alternative parking areas.

106/22 The next meeting date was agreed as 7th February 2023 commencing at 7:00pm – the Chairman gave his apologies for the meeting.

107/22 Closure of Meeting – The Chairman proposed closure of the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Local Government Act 1972, he was seconded by Cllr P. Davis. The following members voted in favour, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse, Cllr. P. Davis and Cllr S. Hall. There were no votes against and no abstentions

Chairman.....7th February 2023