

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr P. Davis.



Town Clerk
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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st August 2023.

Held face to face at Civic Offices commencing at 7.00pm.

Present

Cllr de Launey (Deputy Chairman)	Cllr. Cook	Cllr. Pierce	Cllr. Gorse	Cllr McGinn
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Also in attendance: D. Staniforth and Jim, P. Davis, Town Mayor, K. Roper – Town Clerk.

- 27/23 Welcome from the Deputy Chairman** – Cllr de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting in the absence of the Chairman. He suggested varying the agenda bringing item 6 forward to item 4 as we had guests in attendance wishing to speak. Members were in agreement.
- 28/23 Apologies for Absence** – Were received and accepted from Cllr. Carter and Cllr. Luter. The following members unanimously voted to accept the apologies; Cllr Cook, Cllr Pierce, Cllr Gorse, Cllr McGinn and Cllr de Launey. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 29/23 Declarations of Interest** – No declarations of interest were notified relating to the agenda.
- 30/23 Cargo Bike** - Mr Staniforth was invited by the Chairman to address the meeting explaining the differences between bikes and gave the following information about the volunteer delivery scheme.
- The delivery service operates on Market days, bringing help and pleasure to people, they support traders and shoppers by carrying their purchases.
 - 50% of the volunteers are serious cyclists 50% are 'town' cyclists.
 - Cargo bikes can carry a max. weight of 200 kgs and can accommodate veg boxes and Sacks of potatoes.
 - The bike chosen by the group is called a 'Tern' and is manufactured in Coalport Shropshire. It has been chosen because it is easier to ride.
 - The bike needs servicing about every 3 months and comes with a warranty and free servicing for the first 3 years.
 - It can be stored on its back wheel to save space and the Market has offered free storage and access to a charging point.
 - Cllr Pierce asked the following questions
 - Is the group properly constituted?
 - Is it a charity operating in the area of Shropshire
 - Why have the Borough Council said they would not help
 - How many bikes do they have
 - Why are they electric
 - What happens to donations
 - Who would own/take responsibility for the bike if the Town Council purchased it
 - Mr Staniforth said the volunteers are operating under the auspices of Shropshire Cycle Hub (SCH) who provide insurances and risk assessments to the operators in Wellington. The main areas of operation for SCH are Oswestry and Wellington. He had just agreed to become a Trustee.

- Cllr Davis said the SCH have an income of £115,000 and have 5 paid employees.
- Mr Stanniforth said SCH are supported by Oswestry Town Council. They operate a different model and move people around the town for example visits to the Doctors surgery etc. he added they were originally constituted to help refugees.
- Mr Stanniforth said if Wellington Town Council bought the bike it would become an asset belonging to the Town Council and deliveries could be made to Oakengates, Ketley and St Georges. They do not ask for any payment but sometimes people insist on giving generally £1, and last month the total collection was £12.82.
- Cllr Pierce said she thought the service was for Wellington? Cllr de Launey said the traders will benefit from deliveries outside of Wellington.
- Cllr Gorse thanked Dave and Jim for bringing the Rickshaw for the children at Christmas and Midsomer fare events.
- Mr Stanniforth said the group would like to do more entertaining with the Rickshaw. 90% of their journeys are in Wellington and they support 22 traders presently. They do not keep any personal data for users of the service.

7.40pm the Chairman thanked Jim and Dave for their attendance and they left the meeting.

Cllr de Launey made the following points.

- The project fits within the green credentials of the council
- If the town council owned the bike and the volunteers stopped the service, then we would have an asset to sell.
- The Town Council would need to insure the asset.
- The money could be available within the budget under Partnership Funding

Cllr Davis said he felt this was a chunk of Wellington money which in his view gets blurred with the involvement of the Shropshire Cycle Hub. He would like to see match funding from businesses. He also said he would like to see some measurables such as keeping post code records, miles calculated and how many tons of carbon are saved by the scheme. As they are not constituted any funding collected seems goes back to the Shropshire Cycle Hub and it should be coming to Wellington. He added that if this was a normal grant funding request we would have asked for accounts and bank statements.

Cllr Pierce said all money must be accounted for and where it goes recorded. Who will pay for the electricity and maintenance. We need to know the cost of these going forward. She found it difficult to understand why Telford and Wrekin had not supported the project. Cllr Pierce suggested she would have liked to see the group try 'Go Fund Me' and that there could be sponsorship advertising on the bike.

Cllr Gorse suggested the Clerk contact the Borough Council to suggest part funding the project and bring the response back to the September meeting. She was seconded by Cllr McGinn and the following councillors voted in favour, Cllr Cook, Cllr Pierce, Cllr Gorse, Cllr McGinn and Cllr de Launey. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

31/23 To approve the minutes and the confidential minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2023 – The minutes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr de Launey he was seconded by Cllr Gorse. The following members voted in favour Cllrs de Launey, Pierce, Gorse, McGinn and Cook. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

32/23 Matters Arising

- **Toilets-** The Clerk reported that the Parade toilets were opened on Friday and the repair cost was less than previously expected at around £1,000.00 plus VAT.
- **Speed Indicator Devices** – The Clerk said there had been no progress from Idverde. Cllr Cook asked that Vineyard Road be added to the list of locations.

- 33/23 Finance Report** - Cllr de Launey said the papers had been circulated and asked if there were any questions from Councillors. There were none so he proposed acceptance of items 7a – 7d on the agenda. He was seconded by Cllr Gorse and the following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr de Launey, Cllr Cook, Cllr McGinn, Cllr Pierce and Cllr Gorse. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- a) To agree receipts** for June 2023
 - b) To agree payments** for June 2023
 - c) To agree Petty Cash** for June 2023
 - d) Receipts/Payments –** compared with budget as at 30th June 2023
 - e) Brief Financial Report** - Members again commented that they found this new report much easier to read.
 - f) Public inspection of accounts** – The Clerk said the closing date for the inspection period of accounts was 31st July 2023 and so far we are not aware of any challenges.
- 34/23 Digital Board** – Cllr de Launey said the digital board had been broken for some time and E&C committee were asked to look at options. A quotation for a replacement had been identified at £8k. He said there was no money in the budget for this year and proposed removal of the broken unit and a request made to E&C to present costed alternatives to the November P&R meeting. He was seconded by Cllr Gorse and the following members voted in favour, Cllr de Launey, Cllr Cook, Cllr McGinn, Cllr Pierce and Cllr Gorse. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 35/23 Receive Report from the Regeneration Partnership on 19th July 2023** - Cllr de Launey explained this meeting was the first held with town council members and Sally Themans. The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss matters independently of the Borough. Town Council members agreed that if nothing is done during the Towns Fund project with 2,3,4,& 5 Market Square in particular, (the old Stead and Simpson shop) the project would have failed in the eyes of the public.
- Members acknowledge that compulsory purchase is a long legal and costly process, but this is the building the public are asking about so a meeting has been requested to ask what can be done. The next meeting in August would include Borough Council members and it is hoped they can present solutions.
- 36/23 Town Centre Parking** - Request for a survey – this item was deferred to the September meeting.
- 37/23 Way forward for Climate Change** - this item was deferred to the September meeting.
- 38/23 Community Action Team Report** – The Clerk said the updated reports had been circulated and asked if members had any questions. There were none from Councillors. She said the Town Council had been contacted to contemplate renewing the contract which expires at the end of March 2024. She asked everyone to consider how the contract could be improved for the next five years until the end of the Idverde contract.
- 39/23 The next meeting date was identified as Tuesday 5th September 2023**
- 40/23 The Chairman proposed to close the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Local Government Act 1972, to discuss items 14 a-d on the agenda**, he was seconded by Cllr McGinn. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr de Launey, Cllr Cook, Cllr McGinn, Cllr J. Pierce and Cllr J. Gorse. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

Chairman.....5th September 2023

