

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr P. Davis.



Town Clerk
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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th September 2023.

Held at Civic Offices commencing at 6.55pm.

Present

Cllr Carter (Chairman)	Cllr. Cook	Cllr. Pierce	Cllr. Gorse	Cllr McGinn	Cllr de Launey
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Also in attendance: T. Currie - Yellow Ribbon, P. Davis - Town Mayor, K. Roper – Clerk.

41/23 Welcome from the Chairman – Cllr Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

42/23 Apologies for Absence – There were no apologies.

43/23 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

44/23 Yellow Ribbon – The Chairman invited Tom Currie to address the meeting. Mr Currie gave an overview of his background and experience, highlighting his former career in the probation service and Criminal Justice. He was also Chair of TACT, Yellow Ribbon and a member of Donnington Town Council.

Work is undertaken presently to help 58 people who want to change when they come out of prison, working through the Chaplaincy and with volunteers providing accommodation and help with significant success.

Yellow Ribbon and partners believe the Halfway House building should be in social ownership and have secured the building at a good price. Mr Currie described the experience and expertise of the people involved and how the business would be run going forward. The main problems were the access and the water supply which were being resolved with the help of Telford and Wrekin planning and McPhillips builders. It is intended that the building would be a place of quiet, safety, outdoor pursuits and a workspace. June 2024 is the target opening date for the Café.

Cllr Carter congratulated Mr Currie on his excellent presentation. Cllr Pierce asked if their work was just with men. Mr Currie said yes as the majority of offenders tend to be male, but he recognised that there were challenges to women and their services were open anyone requesting help.

Cllr Gorse asked why they were interested in the Halfway House. Tom said much of the child exploitation took place there and he wanted to reclaim that area for positive purposes.

Cllr Pierce asked about proposed opening hours and it was confirmed the café would be open all year. Safeguarding would be of utmost importance and risks would be managed. Wardens will live in using the 3 small bedrooms.

Cllr Davis asked if the land was freehold. Mr Currie said yes they had been working with the landowner and the preceding consortium who it was hoped would transfer the funds raised previously by them into this project.

Cllr de Launey asked what we could do as Wellington Town Council. Mr Currie said he would like the endorsement and backing of the town council.

Cllr Carter thanked Mr Currie for attending and said he felt that members were happy to endorse the project. He suggested the Clerk work with Mr Currie to provide the information he needs. Members were all in agreement and he left the meeting.

45/23 To approve the minutes and the confidential minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st August 2023 – The minutes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Cook he was seconded by Cllr Pierce. The following members voted in favour Cllrs Carter, de Launey, Pierce, Gorse, McGinn and Cook. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

46/23 Matters Arising

- **Parade Toilets** – These are now open. The Clerk informed members that she had received a FOI request which appeared to be making comparisons following the loss of the staffed service. The Deputy Clerk was dealing with the request.
- **Speed indicator device** – The Clerk had circulated a report and proposition which was considered by members. Members agreed the proposal to accept the quotation to move the SIDS from Morelock. Members also accepted the proposed new locations other than item 6, Whitchurch Drive (between Ketley brook & Haybridge RBT. She was asked to review this location in line with the list of Councillors' requests.
- **Digital Board** – The Clerk said that the unit had been removed. Members asked the Clerk to find out where it is.
- **Regeneration Partnership** – to note the August meeting was deferred to 21.09.23.
- **Parking Survey** – The Chairman said Wellington is on the list at Telford and Wrekin but there were other parishes waiting.
- **DBS Checks** – Members had been contacted to complete the applications in line with council policy.
- **Members email addresses** – Members had been contacted to sign up for generic email addresses to comply with GDPR regulations. The Chairman asked the Clerk to look at providing assistance to members prior to the Full Council Meeting if possible.
- **White Paint Attack** – The Clerk said Idverde had done a great job following the white paint attack which caused damage to the street scene in Wellington. The Clerk had been informed that a perpetrator had been identified using CCTV.

47/23 Cargo Bike – The Chairman confirmed that there would be no funding available from Telford and Wrekin for this project. Cllr de Launey suggested 50% of the money could be taken from the Regeneration budget leaving 50% to be taken from Council resources. Cllr Carter said the project supports businesses, is run by volunteers and helps with social inclusion by supporting elderly people. Cllr Pierce said many people in Wellington cannot afford to shop in the businesses using the delivery service. She also asked how donations from clients would be handled. The Chairman said ultimately this is a fraction of the precept and will help businesses in Wellington. Members agreed that the cost of collecting any tips would be more than they were worth and it would be up to the individual businesses to decide what should happen to them as this is offered as a free service. Cllr Davis asked how the purchase could be made. The Clerk said the Council should purchase directly from the manufacturer, the bike would then be owned by the Council, added to the asset register and made available to the volunteer riders. Members acknowledged this would have implications for maintenance, insurance, charging and storage. Cllr Carter said charging and storage was already being covered by the Market for the borrowed bike and there was no reason to think this would change. The Chairman proposed funding is provided as per the budget 50/50 split with the Regeneration budget and the Clerk works with the volunteers to purchase, insure, promote and brand the bike ensuring maximum publicity is given to the town council. The following members voted in favour Cllrs Carter, de Launey, Pierce, Gorse, McGinn and Cook. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

- 48/23 Home Start Christmas Pledge** – Members considered a request for £500 donation to a Christmas pledge providing support for families across Telford and Wrekin. Cllr Pierce asked how do we know that distribution would be across Wellington and Chairman said Wellington is the largest parish so it would have an appropriate share of the support. The Chairman said Home Start do amazing work and proposed an exceptional grant is made from the community grant budget to donate the requested £500. The following members voted in favour Cllrs Carter, de Launey, Pierce, Gorse, McGinn and Cook. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 49/23 Climate Hub Wellington Station Regeneration** - Cllr Carter thanked Sally Themans for her efforts to secure this grant following the loss of our contact. He said there was a lot uncertainty around any promised grant payment as all the train companies are reportedly short of funds. No business case had been produced by the Climate Hub group and it would need to be seen before any decision to offer a subsidy. Cllr de Launey said the lease only lasts until 2026 and Cllr Pierce said that the buildings are in a very poor condition. Members agreed that they were very wary of the situation and the report was noted but further questions need to answered.
- 50/23 Finance Report** - Cllr Carter said the papers had been circulated and asked if there were any questions from Councillors. Cllr de Launey proposed acceptance of items a – e listed below. He was seconded by Cllr Gorse and the following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr Carter, de Launey, Cllr Cook, Cllr McGinn, Cllr Pierce and Cllr Gorse. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- a) To agree receipts** for July 2023
 - b) To agree payments** for July 2023
 - c) To agree Petty Cash** for July 2023
 - d) Receipts/Payments** – compared with budget as at 31st July 2023
 - e) Brief Financial Report** - Members again commented that they found this new report much easier to read and very helpful and thanked the Deputy Clerk for producing it.
 - f) External Audit** – The Clerk said the Deputy Clerk was dealing with questions related to the Orbit posed by the External Auditor.
 - g) Grants Meeting** – members noted the next meeting on 3rd October included grants applications.
- 51/23 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. The Chairman said Mick and Joe were doing a great job and were giving a great deal of added value to Wellington.
- 52/23 The date of the next meeting was agreed as 3rd October 2023**
- 53/23 Cllr deLauney proposed to close the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Local Government Act 1972, to discuss the final items on the agenda**, he was seconded by Cllr Carter. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr Carter, de Launey, Cllr Cook, Cllr McGinn, Cllr J. Pierce and Cllr J. Gorse. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

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