

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Anthony Lowe
 B.A. (Hons)



Town Clerk
KAREN ROPER
 B.A (HONS) DMS FILCM
 Civic Offices, Larkin Way
 Tan Bank, Wellington
 Telford TF1 1LX
 Tel: 01952 567697

wellingtontowncouncil@telford.gov.uk
www.wellington-shropshire.gov.uk

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 8th October 2019 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllr A. Lowe - Mayor	Cllr. J. Latter	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr P. Davis
Cllr P. Fairclough - Deputy Mayor	Cllr J. Alvey	Cllr G. Luter	Cllr D. Roberts
Cllr P. Morris-Jones	Cllr F. Burns	Cllr M. Hosken	Cllr U. Ahmed.
Cllr S. de Launey	Cllr S. Hall	Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr J. Pierce
Cllr A. McClements	Cllr L. Carter	Cllr K. Tomlinson	

In attendance: Rev. David Sims, 3 Members of the public one member of the press and Karen Roper, Town Clerk.

60/19 Welcome – The Mayor warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the representative from Heartstart was unable to make the meeting due to work commitments. Cllr Lowe then called upon Rev. David Sims to lead prayers.

61/19 Mayor's Engagements – The Mayor gave members the following written report detailing his engagements from September to October 2019.

Sept	
2	Shawbirch Green Meeting
5	GBHS Rising Star Judges visit
7	Wellington Unity Event and launch of Wellington Festival
9	Walking Festival Wrekin Litter Pick. Wellington Boxing Academy opening of new premises.
10	Meeting with Fliss Mercer Refill Project. Mayors and Clerks Meeting Shrewsbury Guildhall
12	Dream Doors official opening. Meeting with Tracey Rous ref Wellington Festival
14	Meeting with Polish "settled status" group at Glebe Centre
17	2 nd Networking Event at the Walnut
20	Mayor of Telford & Wrekin Charity launch at YMCA
21	Opening of Nanny Ji take-away restaurant in market. Ercall Wood Academy Summer Fayre.
22	Sanskriti Festival at Oakengates Theatre with Mayor of Telford & Wrekin.
23	Apley Wood and Shortwood Schools presentation of poetry prizes with Helen Donaghue
24	Old Hall School presentation of poetry prizes
25	Macmillan coffee morning Julia Weston
27	Radio Shropshire Promotion of Wellington Festival on Mark Elliott show
28	Newport Civic Sunday parade and Service
29	Wellington Brass band concert at St. Leonards Malinslee
OCT	
1	ICM + P&L
2	Photo Opportunity Friends of Wellington Station/Walkers are Welcome, launch of new map, James Baylis of Wrekin News. Meeting with Help our Heroes at The Plough ref VE Day Celebrations. P&R

4	Events meeting at WTC
5	Model Railway Club at Charlton School . Twinning Association Quiz Dothill.
7	Meeting with Rev Tim Carter ref Christmas Carol Service
9	Well Being event at Whitehouse Hotel. Parking Comm Meeting.
12	Start of Wellington Festival (Stamp & Coin Fair)

The Mayor said he had also presented prizes for the poetry competition to Ercall Wood School and would be going to Thomas Telford next week.

The following diary dates were given to members;

- Festival starts on 12th October running to 26th and he asked for raffle prizes to be donated For the 3 men in a bow tie event on 19th Oct at the Charlton School
- 23rd November is the Xmas Lights switch on at 3.00pm
- 15th December is the Civic Carol Service starting at 4.00pm All Saints Church
- 28th March is the Mayors Fundraising event at the Whitehouse Hotel and he was hoping for 200 guests

7.25pm Rev Sims left the meeting.

62/19 Apologies - There were apologies received and accepted from Cllr C. Brittain due to illness and Cllr G. Cook

63/19 Declarations of Interest – None were received at this point in the meeting.

64/19 To Receive and Approve Minutes of the Meeting Held 10th September 2019
Cllr Alvey proposed the minutes for acceptance and was 2nd by Cllr Fairclough, members voted unanimously to approve the minutes as a true and accurate account.

65/19 Matters Arising from the Above Minutes

- **DRB Checks** - The Clerk said that some members had completed the process some were going through but not yet completed and some had not engaged. Cllr McClements asked for confirmation that Borough Councillors are not required to apply. The Clerk confirmed that Borough Councillors did not need to go through the process and said that the links could be resent to Councillors, Cllr Roberts suggested members are reminded to tick the first box. Cllr Burns wished to encourage Councillors to complete the checks.
- **Water Refill Action Day** – Cllr Davis reported he was working with T&W Borough and the action day will be held on Monday 14th October at 9.30am in the Market Square with the aim of reducing the single use plastic receptacles. Businesses involved and would be willing to allow refill at their premises. There will be online apps and also a media launch through Telford and Wrekin communication team.

66/19 To receive and note the Minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations.

A. Policy and Resources meetings dated 02.10.19

Cllr de Launey presented the minutes of the above Policy and Resources Committee meetings highlighting the following issues to full Council.

- **Defibrillators** – The Clerk said unfortunately as the Heartstart representative had been unable to attend this meeting, she had invited him to the November Full Council meeting. He has access to the maps indicating the placement of units and the details of the usage. Cllr Tomlinson said she was disappointed this project was taking so long when other smaller parishes had units in place. She was also concerned about pride money needing to be spent by November and was unsure if this can be carried over. Members made the following points:
 - **The smaller parishes had funded units in their areas**
 - **The locations of the devices should be advertised**
 - **A map should be developed and be available to show where they are**

- The units that are on private premises should advertise the hours of availability
- Could the Clerk find out if privately provided units could be transferred to other sites to allow 24/7 access
- The electronic information board could be utilised to carry information
- Information should be on the Council website
- The Journal
- Wrekin News
- Love Wellington
- Borough Councillors can use their Pride money to fund the project

Cllr McClements asked if Wellington Town Council were intending to purchase units because she felt the Council needs to come to a decision. Cllr deLauney said this project was not included in the budget and not a simple task because information is needed on existing units, their position and availability to ensure that we adequately cover every Ward. Cllr Carter suggested a costed proposal is brought to the next P&R meeting.

- **Councillors Allowances** – Cllr deLauney made the following points;
 - Councillors Allowances would continue to be paid twice a year by BACS if possible
 - Allowances will be taxed at source and paperwork indicating the tax position would be sent to individuals to claim back from the Inland Revenue as necessary
 - There was no proposal to increase the Mayor or Deputy Mayors' allowances.
 - There had been no increase in Councillors' Allowances since 2011 when they were introduced
 - The Borough and other parishes in Telford & Wrekin had proposed increases of 20% which for Wellington would mean annual Councillor payments increase from £500.00 to £600.00 per annum
 - P&R had also agreed to recognise the responsibilities and additional work done by Committee Chairmen and Deputy Chairman, proposing additional allowances of £500 for Chairman and £250 Deputy Chairman.
 - Cllr Gorse said she had abstained from the vote and had consulted with her group. She proposed an amendment to **'agree to increased allowances for all members of Council from £500 to £600 but not to pay additional amounts to Committee Chairmen or their Deputies'**. Cllr Hosken 2nd the proposal made by Cllr Gorse, stating in his view there should have been a greater number of people voting on the P&R proposal and he felt it is not necessary to give Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen additional allowances.
 - Cllr Morris-Jones disagreed totally stating that the P&R meeting was quorate and the amount proposed is only a token gesture to recognise the responsibility carried by individuals Chairing and acting a Vice Chairman of our hardworking Committees. He also commented that if we wanted to attract younger people to the Town council then we should be offering incentives to offset their extra costs. He would hate to think someone could not afford to be a Town Councillor. Cllr Tomlinson agreed saying younger people might need to pay for extra expenses such as baby sitting to enable them to attend meetings.
 - Cllr Roberts proposed the following amendment to the amendment and was seconded by Cllr Hall, **'that there will be no increase in the Councillors allowances and no additional payment made to Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees'** This was put to the vote and lost.
 - The amendment proposed by Cllr Gorse 2nd by Cllr Hosken was put to the vote **(to agree to increased allowances for all members of Council from £500 to £600 but not to pay additional amounts to Committee Chairmen or their Deputies)** resulting in 14 for, 4 against and 1 abstention the proposal was therefore carried.
- **Personnel** - P&R supported the following proposals from the Personnel Committee
 - To fund the CilCa Certificate for one members of staff
 - To make the post of Receptionist redundant

- To create a full time post that would offer support to Sally Themans and the 'Love Wellington' project and be able to continue her work when the project ends. Support the Mayor, deliver the Festival and work on the Regeneration projects.
 - To continue to provide a £50.00 Christmas voucher for each member of staff
 - To agree the office closing times as from Monday 23rd December returning on Thursday 2nd January.
- **ICT Working Group** – P&R had agreed to bring a proposal on ICT to the December P&R
 - **Bowring Lease** – Cllr de Launey reported there had been a delay with the lease and Cllr Jinks offered to help if needed.
 - **Parking Working Group** – A meeting was planned for tomorrow to discuss the decriminalisation of parking and other associated matters.

67/19 Planning Committee Meeting held on 11.09.19 - Cllr Alvey proposed the minutes of the above meeting be noted by Full Council and was 2nd by Cllr Jinks. He informed members there had been a site visit. Cllr Tomlinson said application reference TWC/2019/0672 land adjacent to 39 Shawbirch Road, Admaston, no objections had been raised to the proposal but put forward several point and recommendations. The retrospective application made for 14 Bank Road was refused.

68/19 Promotions and Liaison meeting held on 01.10.19– The minutes were proposed by Cllr Tomlinson 2nd by Cllr Alvey. The following points were made

- Thanks to Cllr Davis introducing the Hoot Suite programme as it has saved office time inputting data
- Minute Ref 33/19 Cllr Morris-Jones said there was never any question put about Tourist Information at the Orbit. Presently there is no room.
- Cllr Fairclough said there was confusion over a Tourist Information centre and a Tourist information point where information would be available.
- Feedback from the Remembrance service last year was that the service was too long so this should be taken in account for this year.
- Organisers were trying to ensure there are no clashing dates with other events.

69/19 ICM Meeting held on 01.10.19 – Members had received a written report from the meeting. And an additional Clerks report was tabled. Cllr Carter said there were many items listed in the Clerk's notes that should be shared with the public to show how much work is going on e.g. CCTV upgrades, fly tipping, tackling homelessness, and improving signage. Cllr Burns commented that we are doing a good job in Wellington.

70/19 Conservation Working Group – Cllr Tomlinson presented the minutes for the meeting held on the 21st August 2019 which had been circulated to members. Sainsbury's had supported the project and contractors had been working on the site. They hoped to go for the Queens Award next year.

71/19 Wellington Environmental Services Team (WEST) – Members had received a written report and suggested the team look at a programme of removing Ivy from the trees.

72/19 Regeneration Report – members had received a written report which was moved for acceptance by Cllr Hosken 2nd by Cllr Burns and noted by members.

73/10 Comments for information

- Cllr Roberts said the Wrekin Forest Partnership had started meeting again and she was happy to continue to attend these meetings on behalf of the Council but the dates clash with the Bus Users group so she requested a 2nd rep from the Council. Cllr Gorse proposed Cllr Pierce and was 2nd by Cllr Alvey, all were in favour.

59/19 The next meeting date was agreed as Tuesday 12th November 2019 starting at 7.00pm
The Mayor thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Chairman.....12th November 2019