

Wellington Town Council

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



Town Clerk
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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 10th December 2019 commencing at 6.30pm.

Present:

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

In attendance: Rev. David Sims, 20 Members of the public and Andrew Roberts, Deputy Town Clerk.

90/19 Public Open Session

The Mayor opened the public session and Grant awards were presented to the following:

1. Right Now – Polish Alcoholic Anonymous Group
2. Telford Lions Club
3. Polski Glos Telford & Wrekin
4. Wellington & District Twinning Association
5. Wellington History Group
6. Wellington Local Agenda 21 Group
7. Wellington Methodist Church Art Group
8. Telford Gateway Club

On completion of the individual presentations the individual representatives acknowledged the award and advised the meeting as to how their awards would be applied. Following the presentations festive refreshments were served prior to the commencement of the Full Council Meeting.

91/19 Welcome

The Mayor warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting he then called upon Rev. David Sims to lead prayers.

92/19 Mayor to introduce Kathy Mulholland – Telford & Wrekin Council and Sally Themans – Good2Great

The Mayor welcomed both Kathy Mulholland – Telford & Wrekin Council and Sally Themans Good2Great. Kathy Mulholland was invited to address the meeting who appraised the members of the work that had been undertaken principally through the Pride in the High Street Programme, with the first phase in 2015, with Phase 2 launched in 2017. She further outlined the specific elements that had been delivered, for example the Empty Shop Scheme, grants towards new High Street startups, the encouragement of the younger population with High Street regeneration, and enhancing the look and feel of the High Street and core retail areas. The desire of these programmes was to attempt to

address some of the difficulties that retailers had been facing. Members were advised that Wellington had been one of the major areas where grants had been awarded. Grants had been refused which would lead to duplication. The Property Façade Improvement Programme had been identified that this type of intervention would lead to improvements with the look and feel of the Town Centre, within Wellington a core area had been identified – Market Square, Bell, Crown and Duke Street and also New Street. Feedback had been very positive to this particular scheme. The Young High Street Challenge was being used in order to attract the younger generation within the Borough, particularly given that the younger generation would be the future shoppers within the area. This had resulted in a competition with the resulting winner being the Retro Shack concept which was due to open in Wellington. It was also hoped that discussions would be held with the new Indoor Market owners which would lead to further improvements in the future. Young High Street Challenge Phase 2 would be introduced in the New Year and would operate in partnership with Wrekin College, and members received details of how this scheme would operate. KM outlined that all of these elements do not operate in isolation and were used to market the Borough in the Future, with the introduction of High Street heroes campaign which would seek to identify those persons with the best High Street businesses, and also Totally Telford a quality of life programme which would promote everything that Telford has to offer.

Cllr Tomlinson referred to the previous pop-shop programme but also the use of the external market area as a street food area, attempting to bring visitors into the Town, she suggested that further engagement could be pursued. KM confirmed that ideas such as this could be discussed with the Indoor Market new owners. Cllr Tomlinson also raised concerns in relation to the prevalence of discarded chewing gum.

Cllr Morris-Jones referred to the demise of quality independent shops. KM outlined that people over the years had changed their shopping habits, but recognised that elements of these could be encouraged back into the Town, but had no direct influence. She highlighted that the Yong High Street challenge may well be the vehicle which could look to encourage a quality independent sector.

Cllr McClements welcomed the presentation and the work that had been undertaken, the work was great but that this work would need to be continued into the future.

Cllr Roberts referred to a lack of footfall in the Tan Bank area and questioned as to whether an element of this was the Belmont Car Park being long stay rather than short stay which would have the effect of encouraging shoppers into the Town.

Sally Themans was then invited to address the meeting on the Love Wellington campaign. ST congratulated KM and the Borough Council and the initiatives that had been introduced. These new initiatives had been highlighted by the GBHS award judges. ST wished to report on the projects that she had introduced – including the branding of Wellington, the Great British High Street award completion. She outlined the ongoing challenges within Wellington which would further provide opportunities for the future. ST highlighted that Wellington had been identified as a robust Town. Members were advised that there was a growing appetite for regeneration, within the Town and received a reminder that with the events that were organised by the Town Council were fully welcomed and well attended. ST also highlighted the various business market network meetings that were attended by investors who are lining up to invest within the Town, which provided further opportunities. Reference was also made in relation to the media and the perceived death of the High Street. ST outlined her marketing approach to talk about as a place and concentrating on four particular pillars – the community, customer experience, the environment of the Town and digital transformation. ST indicated that she was trying to make Wellington a brand rather than just a Town, highlighting the hard work of the community groups within the Town in an attempt for people to re-discover the Town. This identification of valued community groups was the creation of a team of volunteers of people who loved the Town. She highlighted many of the initiatives that had been introduced within Wellington, there had been many media opportunities. ST highlighted the Great British Award programme with Wellington nominated as a Rising Star Finalist which was an independent recognition of how the Town had progressed. Members were also reminded of the various social media channels that had been used such as Facebook Twitter Whats App etc. Members were also informed of the further development of the Love Wellington Youth which would encourage the Town's younger element to continue

with the Love Wellington branding. Traditional press releases were also being used within the traditional media outlets for those elements of the population who do not use social media outlets. There were 2 big results of the current campaign which were the backing of the Wellington businesses who then well attend the business networking meetings and also that Wellington was nominated as a Rising Star category of the Great British High Street award scheme, the feedback of which was extremely positive on the judging day to show how good Wellington is.

The meeting then received details of the programme for 2020 onwards which would build on the development of the future of the Love Wellington – these would be the development of spend a fiver in Town, in order to assist the regeneration of the Town, an access for finance seminar to assist businesses, digital transformation, getting digital payments up and running, social media workshops and clinics, further development of the Love Wellington website, the further development of the Love Wellington Youth, development of a traders association; the challenges and opportunities within the Indoor Market, development of street food etc.

Cllr Pierce highlighted the Post Office and that she had received adverse comments about the Post Office and that the current situation should not continue.

Cllr Jinks highlighted the Dothill LNR Friends which had not been recognised within the Town. ST confirmed that the Dothill LNR Group was a large element of the GBHS entry.

93/19 Mayor's Engagements

The Mayor gave members the following written report detailing his engagements from November to December 2019.

November

- 3 T&W Borough organised Festival of Dance and Culture Oakengates Theatre
- 5 ICM Meeting. P&R
- 6 Launch of Children of Eden Community Musical at All Saints Church
- 7 Unveiling of Jacob Chandler sculpture at Fashion Quarter Southwater
- 8 Meeting with Idverde at WTC
- 10 Festival of Remembrance parade and Service at All Saints.
Evening T & W Borough Festival of Remembrance at Oakengates
- 11 Remembrance Service in Market Square to mark 11th hour of 11th day of 11th month.
Meeting with Lee Carter, Stephen de Launey and Tony Nicholls of Ken Francis Butchers.
- 12 Council
- 15 SALC 70th Anniversary Party at Lord Hill in Shrewsbury.
- 16 Twinning Assoc. dinner at The Walnut.
- 17 Help our Heroes planning meeting at The Plough.
- 19 Wellington Festival Meeting.
- 20 Parking Comm + Regeneration Board Meeting.
- 21 Shawbirch Carers Wellbeing event, The Woolpack, Shawbirch
- 23 Christmas Fayre, The Glebe Centre, Christmas lights switch on Market Square.
- 26 P&L.
- 27 All Mayors and Clerks meeting, Shrewsbury: climate emergency action plan
Twining meeting Old Wrekin Tap.
- 30 Wellington Brass Band at Christ Church, Wellington.

December

- 1 Halfway House Christmas Lights switch-on and inauguration of community asset building
- 2 Preparation meeting at White House for March Mayoral dinner.
Meeting with Harjot Rayet of T&W Borough ref climate emergency action plan
Oakengates T&W Carol Service.
- 3 P&R
- 5 Bowring Park First Aid Certificates ceremony
- 6 Christmas shop and market windows judging
- 7 Small Business Saturday Wellington
Film premiere "Addiction" by Luke Allen at Priory School, Telford.

- 8 Civic Society lunch Buckatree Hotel.
- 10 Adam Brookes T&W Parking Meeting Rowland Gate, Wellington
Prep meeting, Sally, Karen, Caroline ref WTC Annual Report Council.
- 13 Meeting Rob Francis ref 2-4 Crown Street.
- 14 Retro-shack Opening.
- 15 Civic Carol Service, All Saints Church.
- 17 ICM, P&L
- 18 Regeneration Board.
St Chads Shropshire Civic Carol Service.

94/19 Apologies – there were apologies received and accepted from Cllr J Alvey, Cllr G Luter and Cllr C. Brittain due to illness.

95/19 Declarations of Interest – None were received at this point in the meeting.

96/19 To Receive and Approve Minutes of the Meeting Held 12th November 2019
Cllr Hosken proposed the minutes for acceptance and was seconded by Cllr Gorse, members voted unanimously to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

97/19 Matters arising from the Minutes

Bowring Lease – Update

Cllr deLauney provided an update on the Bowring Lease and that the Town Council had received a detailed response from the tenants Solicitor which had been forwarded to the Town Council's solicitor who had advised accordingly. A response would be prepared and submitted in due course, but this had led to a consequent delay in the completion of the Lease. Cllr Jinks commented that she was concerned at the ongoing delay and that as solicitors work to deadlines and that these should be applied firmly, with a suggestion that the Lease should be completed in early January 2020.

98/19 To receive and note the Minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations.

a. **Policy & Resources Committee** 3rd December 2019
Cllr deLauney reported on the recent meeting and the following specific items

92/19 – Bowring pathway – the meeting agreed in principle to this particular project and that further discussions would be held at subsequent meetings.

94/19 (b) – Defibrillators – to confirm that everything is in place to install two defibrillators at Shawbirch and on the boundary at Park and Dothill.

94/19 (d) – Gateway signs – two signs would be installed in January 2020 to replace present signs with a further two signs in the subsequent year.

94/19 (i) – ICT – held a meeting recently to consider further options for the future.

98/19 – Idverde meeting – he clarified that this was a meeting of the Environment Working Group, which met with idverde to raise continuing rubbish collection and that standards should be raised within the Town, and that a deep clean would be undertaken. It was noted that this had commenced. Cllr Tomlinson raised the issue of the prevalence of chewing gum within the Town, and this was discussed further.

96/19 – Draft Budget – and he indicated the proposed timetable for the final approval of the Budget which would need to be approved at the January 2020 Full Council meeting. He pointed out the following aspects, the Civic Centre and the hiring of our meeting room, election expenses, with a higher element required to meet the costs of the May 2019 elections. He indicated that the borough had agreed that these costs could be spread over subsequent years. In relation to Promotions &

Liaison that Festival personnel costs had been highlighted. Public Amenities further apportionment of personnel costs to cover the WEST Team, and the Deputy Clerks apportioned costs. Cllr deLauney also indicated that the total of the Community Grants total had been increased to enable further support to the Arleston Community Centre. He concluded by confirming that expenditure had occurred during the current financial year e.g. Cottage Care Hospital listing application and referred to the Uncommitted Expenditure and that the sum of £15,000 had been identified towards this. Turning to regeneration overall whilst the sum of £30,000 had been identified for Town Centre Property Loan costs – the sum of £21,000 to cover the required loan costs if required to fund a potential regeneration project with Telford & Wrekin Council. The total of the overall regeneration project had been increased to cover additional personnel costs. As a result of the measures outlined above would result in proposed expenditure of £512,500 with £50,000 being identified to be used from balances which would result in a precept £462,500.

Cllr Morris-Jones wished to record his congratulations of the budget. He highlighted the additional investment towards the future regeneration of the Town, which indicated the proposed work that the Town Council was proposing to undertake. Cllr Gorse wished to support the budget and the comments of Cllr Morris-Jones.

b. **Planning Committee** 13th November 2019

Cllr Burns presented the minutes of the previous meeting in particular he referred minute 109/19 to the discussions on the consultation that had been undertaken in relation to the local buildings of Local Historic Interest. He encouraged members to keep in mind such suggestions when the Town Council was requested to provide such suggestions.

Cllr Jinks wished to bring Members attention to the ongoing discussions on Street Trading Consent applications and that further work has been undertaken with a view to the provision of a detailed response. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that all members would receive a draft which would then be submitted to the Borough Council in accordance with the consultation process which would need to be followed. There was a general discussions in relation to Street Trading Consents being granted and the grounds that should be considered.

c. **Promotions & Liaison Committee** 26th November 2019

Cllr Fairclough presented the minutes of the meeting recently held. There was an initial discussion as to whether the meeting was quorate. She indicated that there was a discussion in relation to the future usage of Hype Magazine and Wrekin News, which would be discussed further.

In relation to the planned May 2020 Festival was well in hand – in particular she outlined the various planned events including the VE celebrations.

Cllr Jinks raised the issue of the Telford Lions not attending other Christmas Lights Switch-on events in the outlying areas. Members recognised that for example the Arleston Lights was always well attended due to the active work of the individual Town Councillors and that other Town Councillors would need to replicate this community work.

In connection with the identified agenda item in relation to Hype Magazine/Wrekin News – the Mayor outlined that at the previous meeting that this matter should be referred to the Full Council to discuss further. Cllr Carter proposed that this particular matter should be referred back to the Committee.

99/19 Wellington Environmental Services Team Report

The meeting received an oral update on the ongoing work and activities of the Wellington Services Team that they had been engaged in since the previous meeting. The Team had undertaken repair work at both the Parade Toilets and the Bowring. Members were advised that the Team received daily positive feedback from the environmental work that they undertook. The Mayor requested that if individual members identified environmental works that could be undertaken that these should be communicated further.

- 100/19 To receive the notes of the Meeting of the Regeneration Board held on 20th November 2019 – for information only**
The notes of the meeting were received and noted.
- 101/19 To receive the notes of the Meeting of the Parking Working Group held on 20th November 2019 – for information only**
The notes of the meeting were received and noted. The Mayor referred to the positive meeting that had taken place at Rowland Gate.
- 102/19 To receive Matters for Information only**
None.
- 103/19 To agree the date of the next meeting of Full Council as – Tuesday 14th January 2020**
This was agreed as Tuesday 14th January 2020, commencing at 7:00pm.

Chairman.....14th January 2020