

# 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](mailto:wellingtontowncouncil@telford.gov.uk)  
[www.wellington-shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.wellington-shropshire.gov.uk)

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 commencing at 7.00 pm.**

### **Present:**

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

**In attendance:** Rev. Tim Carter, 3 Members of the public, 1 member of the press, Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, Police Inspector Wade and Karen Roper Town Clerk.

**104/19 Welcome** – In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Pat Fairclough welcomed everyone to the meeting and called upon Rev. Carter to say prayers.

**105/19 Cllr Claire** – The Deputy Mayor called upon Cllr Gorse to pay tribute to Cllr Elizabeth Clare who died on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Cllr Gorse said Cllr Claire was both a Borough and Parish Councillor for Donnington and Muxton. She served on the Wellington Civic and Management Committee for many years, was hardworking and outspoken. She would be missed by all who worked closely with her because we have lost both a good Councillor and a friend. Cllr Gorse said our thoughts are with her friends and family. She then called for a one minute silence to honour her memory.

**106/19 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)** – The Deputy Mayor introduced John Campion and asked him to address members relating to concerns raised with him previously namely –

- Exploitation of children/young and vulnerable people for drugs or sex
- Exploitation of people for drugs gangs using coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons.
- Drugs being openly dealt on the streets
- Homelessness
- Thefts particularly from shop premises
- Numbers of visible officers on the beat.
- Members said that Wellington should be a special case because of the Child Exploitation situation which had been widely reported.
- Councillors were concerned about the disproportionate numbers of disadvantaged people that seem to end up in Wellington
- CCTV cameras in the town often does not work and there are some 'black spots' which criminals seem to be aware of and are taking advantage.
- Issues around fighting racism and counter terrorism.
- Knife Crime
- Cuckooing – (a practice where people exploit and take over a vulnerable person's home and use the property to deal, store or take drugs).

### **Mr Campion gave the following responses:-**

- The West Midlands had received its share of the additional election resources promised by

- the Government during its election campaign.
- Numbers of frontline officers would be up to 2010 levels when the new recruits (currently undertaking training) are operational in April 2020. The PCC said he would like staffing increased to the higher levels experienced in 2009 and this would be achieved if the Government deliver on their promise.
  - The focus of new officers will be, reducing response times and increasing public confidence and satisfaction.
  - A crime prevention programme with a rural focus has been launched.
  - Funding pots available from the proceeds of speed awareness programmes are:
    - Smartwater / We Don't Buy Crime Programme - PCC will fund 25% of the cost for kits.
    - SIDs to make roads safer
  - Crime Prevention Officers had focussed on Wellington during NOV/DEC making positive, practical suggestions to help retailers improve their situation and reduce retail crime.
  - Since he had been in office, investments had been made in technology such as body worn cameras and mobile communications.
  - CCTV improvements are happening and will improve the quality and coverage in Wellington. It had been suggested that volunteers will be sought to monitor the system in a similar way to the operation in Oswestry.
  - Mr Campion assured members that West Mercia Police are a large well-resourced organisation and he would expect that all responses are a 'match fit' to the problem, whatever it might be.
  - The PCC named domestic violence and roads as the biggest threats to residents.

### **Report from Inspector Wade**

- The Police have 4 people in prison on remand following the serious knife crime reported over the Christmas period.
- The Knife Angel statue is coming to Telford and he assured members there is a robust Police response to anyone found carrying a knife. An education programme including statements from the Ambulance service and ex-drug gang members is being delivered aiming to deter people from carrying knives.
- He felt that Wellington is in a good place relating to counter terrorism and radicalisation referrals had dropped in the last 6 months and the Police are heavily involved in education.
- Inspector Wade confirmed the CCTV system is currently operating in Wellington.
- He said that County Lines are active everywhere with drugs and vulnerable people being exploited but extensive efforts are taking place to rehabilitate victims.
- Inspector Wade said the Police were organising round table discussion events with the public and all stakeholders invited to contribute to identify social capital.
- Inspector Wade produced a Wellington 2020 report and commented that he felt that progress had been made and asked what was next?

Cllr Burns thanked both John Campion and Inspector Wade for their comprehensive response to the questions raised by members and said the Council was willing to help.

7.45pm John Campion and Inspector Wade left the meeting.

**107/19 Apologies** - Were received from Cllrs. Cook, Brittain, Luter and McClements because of ill health. Cllr. Lowe was on holiday, Cllr. Tomlinson had family commitments and Cllr. Alvey due to a bereavement. The apologies were accepted by members.

**108/19 Declaration of Interest** – None were reported at this point

**109/19 Mayors report on his work since the previous meeting -**

#### **December**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Halfway House Christmas Lights switch-on & inauguration of community asset building   |
| 2 | Preparation meeting at White House for March Mayoral dinner.<br>Meeting with Harjot Rayet of T&W Borough ref climate emergency action plan<br>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
10	Prep meeting, Sally, Karen, Caroline re: WTC newsletter
13	Rob Francis and Stephen de Launey re: 2-4 Crown Street re possible Acquisition by WTC
14	Wrekin College Retro-shack opening
15	Civic Carol Service, All Saints Church.
17	ICM, P&L
18	Regeneration Board, Sutton Hill Food Bank, St Chads Carol Service.
19	Meeting with Cllr Raj Mehta re: Wellington Dance festival on 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
20	Methodist Church Telford Music School Christmas Event
<b>January</b>	Newsletter meeting and P&R
7	Multi faith event Hadley Sikh Temple
8	Wellington Festival strategy meeting.
9	Twining Association Planning Meeting

**110/19 To Receive and Approve Minutes of the Meeting Held 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Cllr Hosken proposed the minutes for acceptance and was seconded by Cllr Phil Morris-Jones MBE, members voted unanimously to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

**111/19 Matters arising from the Minutes**

- **Idverde Update** - The Clerk reported she had been invited to meet with Idverde on a monthly basis and asked members to report any ward issues to her. The next meeting date would be 7<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said that the wheelie bins in Market Street were a problem, one had blown over spilling contents over the Christmas holiday. Something needed to be done to stop this happening again. Cllr Jinks thanked Cllr Carter for his intervention resulting in the tidying up of the area at the gatehouse off Apley Avenue.

**112/19 To receive and note the Minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations.**

**Policy and Resources meeting 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020** – Cllr de Launey presented the minutes highlighting the following points:

- **Defibs** – One unit is installed. The Clerk reported the second proposed installation had encountered problems and an alternative position was being sought.
- **Bowring Lease** – There had been a lack of progress because the tenants had been on extended holiday and would be contacted on their return. Cllr Jinks pointed out that tax payers were assisting this business and asked that a deadline of the end of January is put to tenants. Cllr de Launey said the cost to taxpayers was small and he may request the lease be adjusted to ensure no further costs would be incurred.
- **Gateway Signs**- The Apley sign has been installed and the installation at Bennetts Bank is promised as soon as possible.
- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** – No back up paperwork had been found to support the requested payment of £2,000.00. The project had taken place so the Clerk was instructed to try and negotiate with Telford and Wrekin.
- **Idverde** – Cllr Roberts reported on broken glass remaining uncollected for days and ultimately a trader removing it. The Clerk said the photo, received today, seemed to show glass behind the barriers at the base of the tree.
- **ICT** – Cllr Davies asked for an update on this project. He was informed that the T&W Officer has not yet returned to work.

- **Bowring Pathway** - P&R were supportive of the project but had not promised any financial support at this moment in time. Cllr Burns commented that practical support meant free meeting rooms and introductions to appropriate Officers who may be able to help.

**113/19 Draft Budget** - Cllr de Launey proposed acceptance of the draft budget and was seconded by Cllr Burns. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said that the additional £42k on the precept would be used to deliver regeneration in the town otherwise Wellington would stand still. He said he thought it was a brave move by the Chairman of Policy and Resources and commended the budget. The proposal was put to the vote and unanimously agreed by members.

**114/19 To agree a precept for 2020/21** – Cllr de Launey proposed acceptance of the precept of £462,500.00. Explaining the increase amounted to 7% on a band 'D' property. This was seconded by Cllr Burns and unanimously agreed by members.

**115/19 Regeneration Board Notes** – Cllr de Launey highlighted the following key points from the meeting :-

- To Board proposed extension of the contracts for Sally Themans and Jocelyne Fields to March 2021 subject to agreed key performance indicators.
- Paola had taken up her post with the town council at the beginning of January and would be working closely with Sally.
- Cllr de Launey said he was pleased that Inspector Wade had picked up the 2020 vision document and had commented that progress had been made. He confirmed that a new document was needed for up to 2030 to identify what is still needing to be done.

**116/19 Planning Committee Minutes 4<sup>th</sup> December** – Cllr Jinks presented the minutes and was seconded by Cllr de Launey. She commented that the Street Trading Consent renewal would be discussed at the next meeting, on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

**117/19 Planning Committee Minutes 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Cllr Burns presented the minutes and asked Cllr Latter to comment on TWC/2019/0973 Wrekin College Sutherland Avenue. Cllr Latter explained there was a Public Right of Way across the site that would need to be re-routed. He would attend the Planning meeting tomorrow evening to discuss his concerns with the committee. Plans for the Cottage Care Hospital would also be discussed at this meeting and Cllr Hosken said the investment made by this council had saved this iconic building because the Borough Council had listened and recognised it as a building worth preserving.

**118/19 Promotions and Liaison 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019** – Cllr Hall presented the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and made the following comments.

- Cllr McClements gave apologies for the meeting that were not recorded
- There was discussion around the value of continued subscription to HYPE magazine (recently changed its name to Telford Lifestyle magazine) and where it is distributed.

**119/19 Wellington Environmental Services Team** – Document detailing the work programme had been tabled for information.

**120/19 Matters for Information Only**

- Mayoral Dinner and Dance on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Whitehouse Hotel ticket price £28.00 per head 3 course meal plus drink on arrival, live music followed by DJ and disco.7.00pm – dress to impress
- Wellington May Festival from 1<sup>st</sup> May – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- Twinning visit from Chatenay 7<sup>th</sup> May – 10<sup>th</sup> May, looking for host families.
- Great British High Street Rising Star Decision 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020
- Charter Day 7<sup>th</sup> March
- A new Town Crier has been found

**121/19 Date of Next Meeting** - was agreed as Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00pm

Chairman.....11<sup>th</sup> February 2020