

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr A. Lowe



Town Clerk
KAREN ROPER
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ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on
Wednesday 15th May 2019 commencing at 7:05pm.**

Present:

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

In attendance: C. Mason-Morris, Karen Roper, Town Clerk, 12 members of the public, Police Inspector Gary Wade, Alan Olver and Reverend David Sims.

Public Open Session – Mayor C. Mason Morris wearing the ceremonial chain, presented the following Mayors' Voluntary Awards for 2019 to the following people:-

- **Mike Hughes** – For his hard work and commitment to the Noah's Ark Project which contributed to the Wellington Festival and the Telford 50 Celebrations
- **Mr & Mrs Vickers** – For their commitment and devotion to our town and its many residents
- **Julie Sankey** - Awarded For her commitment to promoting Wellington, its Market and for acting as an ambassador for our Town.
- **Sue Shedden** – Awarded for her commitment, hard work and support to the Wellington festival and it's Committee.
- **Shropshire Cat Rescue** – Presented with a half share of the Mayors' charity fundraising
- **Maninplace** – Presented with a half share of the Mayors Charity fundraising

Homelessness

Alan Olver and Inspector Gary Wade were called upon by Cindy Mason-Morris to update the meeting on the current situation relating to homelessness in Wellington.

The following points were made by Inspector Wade:-

- This is worst he had seen with at one point 13 people sleeping rough on/off
- They all have complex issues and many are vulnerable people
- No 4 Market Street will have gates installed
- The Police are working with partners to get help and housing
- PCSO's giving out leaflets and working closely with Town Council Staff
- Care needs to be taken if removing clothing or bedding as many are drug users and

- helpers are at risk of injury.
- They could be victims of Modern slavery
- They may come to join with their community
- Inspector Wade urged everyone to call 101 to log incidents

Alan Olver gave members the history of Maninplace and confirmed that there had been a massive increase in the numbers of rough sleepers. Maninplace had accommodation for a maximum of 14 people. People are coming from outside of the area such as Shrewsbury or Wolverhampton usually using the trains. A night time team patrols to assist.

Members made the following comments.

- Why do homeless people come to Wellington – A. because they get moved on and Wellington is often the next most populated stop on the train line.
- How is Maninplace funded? A. through donations, Borough Council, covenants etc.
- No social housing is available and Wellington does seem to have a disproportionate number of homeless.
- Welfare reforms have meant that people leaving prison have to wait 5 weeks before they receive any money, which may mean 5 weeks on the street.
- What could the Town Council do to help with the situation? A. It was agreed the TC was doing all it could to help.

Mayor Cindy Mason-Morris then called on Reverend Sims to lead prayers.

01/19 Election of Mayor – Cindy Mason Morris called for nominations for Mayor for the year 2019/20: Cllr Miles Hosken proposed Cllr Lowe and was seconded by Cllr Jinks.

There being no further nominations, it was agreed UNANIMOUSLY that Cllr Lowe be elected to serve as Mayor for the next twelve months. Cindy Mason–Morris as immediate past Mayor presented the chain of office to Cllr Lowe. The outgoing Mayors’ Husband then presented the Consort’s chain of office to Mrs Lowe.

02/19 Signing by the Incoming Mayor of the Acceptance of Office Form
Cllr Lowe duly signed the Acceptance of Office form, witnessed by the Clerk.

03/19 New Mayor’s Address – Cllr Lowe said it was an enormous honour to be voted in unanimously by members and he hoped to set a pace showing the same determination and energy that the past Mayor had demonstrated to promote our town and its businesses. He expressed his admiration and respect to Cindy Mason-Morris thanking her for all she had done for Wellington. He had chosen Maninplace and Strickland house as his charities.

04/19 Tributes to the outgoing Mayor – Cllr Morris-Jones spoke for his group members to express their admiration, appreciation and respect for the hard work the past mayor had done. Cllr Alvey said she had taken the Wellington festival and achieved wonderful results, her input will be missed. Cllr. de Launey said she had been Mayor for 20 months because of the sad loss of the previous Mayor. He thanked her for her amazing efforts. Cllr Tomlinson said she knew how difficult it could be to bring people together and steer them in the right direction and she would be missed on the Council. Cllr Gorse on behalf of the Labour group presented her with an orchid and thanked Cindy Mason-Morris for all the commitment, time and tireless campaigning she had done for the whole community. She said she had superbly chaired the council meetings, was hard working and dedicated. Cllr McClements gave her thanks for everything she had done for Arlestone Residents who loved her visits and the support she had given them adding they would welcome her back. Cllr Hosken said he felt she was a nice person, we liked you the town liked you, you offered new qualities and will be missed. Cllr Jinks said we had forgotten John, Cindy’s Husband who had been at all the events with her and she thanked him for his considerable efforts over the time Cindy Mason-Morris was Mayor. Cllr Davis said he had not worked as colleagues with Cindy Mason-

Morris but she had been an inspiration to him through her Facebook posts and she was the reason why he stepped up to be elected as Town Councillor.

05/19 Outgoing Mayor's Comments – Cindy Mason Morris said she had tried to uphold the traditions of the Council but has also given them a bit of a shake-up. She recognised that many 100's of people give their time for Wellington. She has attended 165 events plus the Festival events to represent the Town and thanked Cllr Lowe for being her deputy. She gave her deepest gratitude to her Husband for the fantastic support he had given to her. Cllr Mason Morris said the Council had a hardworking team of officers and gave particular thanks to Caroline Mulvihill who offered volunteers a warm welcome and every assistance. She then presented the Clerk with flowers and expressed her thanks for her work over the last twelve months. Although she was stepping down from the Arts Festival she felt she was leaving it in a good position with tickets moving well, 2 sponsors and a great social media presence she sincerely thanked Cllr Alvey for all his help and support and left the meeting to applause.

06/19 Apologies – There were no apologies.

07/19 Declarations of Interest - None forwarded at this point in the meeting.

08/19 Election of Deputy Mayor - Cllr Lowe called for nominations. Cllr Fairclough was proposed and seconded, there being no further nominations, it was agreed UNANIMOUSLY that she be elected to serve as Deputy Mayor for the next twelve months and so she was presented with the Deputy Mayor's chain of office by the Mayor.

09/19 To Receive the Minutes of the Town Assembly held on 16th April 2019 – Following the correction on page three amended from Horton Lane to Orleton Lane, the minutes were moved by Cllr de Launey, 2nd by Cllr Burns and agreed by members as true and accurate record

10/19 Election of Policy & Resources Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Cllr Lowe called for nominations, it was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the following Councillors serve as the Policy and Resources Committee with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (each ex officio) for the next twelve months.

Cllrs: Hosken, Morris-Jones, Hall, Gorse, Burns, Carter and de-Launey.

11/19 Election of Planning Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Cllr Lowe called for nominations for the Planning Committee, Cllrs: Alvey, Luter, Jinks, deLauney, Ahmed, Roberts and Burns were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve as the Planning Committee with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (ex officio) for the next twelve months.

12/19 Election of Promotions & Liaison Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor and Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Cllr Lowe called for nominations for the Promotions & Liaison Committee. Cllrs: Brittain, Alvey, Hall, Tomlinson, Davis, McClements and Carter were proposed and duly seconded.

There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (ex officio) as the Promotions & Liaison Committee for the next twelve months.

13/19 Election of the Wellington Festival Committee (6 vacancies + Mayor and Deputy Mayor *ex officio*)

Cllr Lowe called for nominations for the Wellington Festival Committee.

Cllrs: Latter, Alvey, Pierce, Fairclough, Gorse and Davis, were proposed and duly seconded.

There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (*ex officio*) as the Festival Committee for the next twelve months.

14/19 Election of presently active working groups and Town Council representatives on outside bodies

a) Conservation Area Working Group (4 Vacancies) - Cllr Lowe called for nominations for the Conservation Area Working Group. Cllrs Brittain, Morris-Jones, Pierce and Tomlinson were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve as Members of the Conservation Area Working Group for the next twelve months.

c) Shropshire Association of Local Councils - Wrekin Area Committee (2 vacancies)- Cllr. Lowe called for nominations, Cllr Alvey was proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations it was agreed to defer election of 2nd representative to a future date. Cllr. Alvey was duly elected to represent the Town Council on the Shropshire Association of Local Councils - Wrekin Area Committee.

d) Telford Bus Users Group (2 vacancies) - Cllr Lowe called for nominations Cllrs Roberts and Cook were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations it was agreed Cllrs Roberts and Cook should represent the Town Council on the Telford Bus Users Group.

g) Walkers are Welcome- Cllr Lowe called for nominations, Cllr Roberts was proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations it was agreed that Cllr Roberts should represent the Town Council on Walkers are Welcome.

15/19 To receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th April 2019

Proposed: Cllr Morris-Jones, seconded Cllr Hosken and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2019 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record.

16/19 Matters Arising

a) Voice Tracking Microphone – The Clerk said the system is now installed, Cllr Morris-Jones said he had been able to hear every word this evening and it was a pleasure to do so.

b) Cottage Hospital Update – The Clerk reported it would take 12 weeks to process the request even through the application had been fast tracked.

c) CCG response letter - Regarding Severn Hospice Funding, members felt the letter was fobbing off the Town Council, they also felt the tone of the letter to be poor and requested that a firm letter is sent back expressing members' views. The Clerk was also requested to issue a press release on the subject. The Clerk said she would circulate the letter before it is sent so that members could comment.

d) Idverde - Cllr Tomlinson said that Idverde seemed to be doing a good job as Shawbirch had a visit from a road sweeper and weeds had been sprayed, both of which had not happened for a long time. Cllr Hosken said the town centre did not seem to be doing as well because there was a call to remove contaminated rubbish and the response was most certainly not immediate as promised. The Clerk was requested to invite the Idverde area Manager to the next Council meeting. Telephone numbers including out of hours contact

details are requested to be made available for members. Cllr Burns said he felt a sub-committee needs to be set up to monitor the situation.

e) Integrated Community Management Group (ICM) – Cllr Burns highlighted the issues being addressed by the ICM, members had previously been sent a copy of their work programme.

f) Regeneration Board –Members had received a copy of the minutes, there were no further questions.

17/19 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.

a) Policy & Resources Committee 30.04.19 – The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Hosken and 2nd by Cllr Gorse

Matters arising from those minutes

- **Bowring Park** – Cllr Jinks expressed her concern that the Tenants agreement had not yet been signed. She said the tenants had altered the fabric of the building and seemed to be trying to manipulate the Council. She insisted the situation is rectified. Cllr de Launey said the P&R meeting of 4th June would be discussing the issue. Cllr Morris-Jones complained that the opening hours were not being adhered to.

b) Planning Committee 30.04.19 – Cllr Alvey presented the minutes which were 2nd by Cllr Luter and agreed as a true record.

c) Promotions & Liaison Committee 24.04.19 & Wellington Festival Committee 18.04.19 – the Clerk reported that neither of these meetings took place.

18/19 General Power of Competence

The Council agreed that the following three conditions for eligibility for the Town Council to be enabled to exercise the General Power of Competence are as follows:

Resolution: the council must resolve at a meeting that it meets the criteria for eligibility relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the clerk.

Electoral mandate: at the time the resolution is passed, at least two thirds of the council must hold office as a result of being declared elected (i.e. not co-opted).

Qualified Clerk: At the time that the resolution is passed, the clerk must hold a recognised professional qualification (e.g. Certificate in Local Council Administration, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy) AND pass the 2012 CiLCA module relating to the General Power of Competence.

As a result of satisfying the above criteria it was proposed by Cllr Burns, 2nd by Cllr Hosken and agreed unanimously by the Council to pass the following resolution:

Wellington Town Council resolves from 15th May 2019, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

19/19 To Appoint the Town Council's Internal Auditor - This item was deferred to the next Full Council meeting

20/19 To appoint / confirm signatories for the Town Council's Bank Account.

The following members were appointed / reappointed to approve payments.

- Cllr Lowe
- Cllr Davis
- Cllr Fairclough

21/19 To receive urgent matters (for information only)

- a) Passing of Mr & Mrs Brittain-** Members were informed that sadly Joyce and Peter Brittain of Haygate Road, Wellington had sadly died.

The information received from Richard Partington is as follows:

‘Joyce was known locally as the Park Keeper and Shop Lady at the Council's Bowling Park Wellington and worked there for all hours of the day, seven days a week, from the late 1970's through to the early 2000's. Joyce was the familiar face to many local people, serving refreshments and issuing equipment to children and adults who wanted to use the bowling green, tennis courts and pavilion facilities in the park. She passed away peacefully on April 1, 2019, aged 70 years.

Her husband Peter, also of Haygate Road, Wellington. Passed away peacefully at The Princess Royal Hospital, on April 24, 2019, aged 77 years. During the same period as his wife Joyce, Pete was the full time Groundsman at the Park and taught many of his younger colleagues the skills and craftsmanship of fine turf maintenance and horticulture. His pride and joy was nurturing the two county standard bowling greens, cricket square’

Members instructed the Clerk to send condolences to the family.

- b) Urgent Request from Cllr Burns**

That the Clerk publicise the election results as soon as possible and he commented that the website was out of date. He also requested that Councillors receive contact details and committee meeting dates and times.

22/19 The Date of the Next Full Council Meeting – Was agreed as 11th June 2019

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