

# Wellington Town Council

**Town Mayor**  
**Cllr Anthony Lowe**  
*B.A (HONS)*



**Town Clerk**  
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## POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 3rd December 2019 commencing at 7.00pm.

<b>Cllr S. de Launey (SDL)</b> <b>Chairman</b>	<b>Cllr. P. Morris-Jones MBE (PMJ)</b> <b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Cllr J. Gorse (JG)</b>	<b>Cllr S. Hall (SH)</b>
<b>Cllr M. Hosken (MH)</b>	<b>Cllr F. Burns (FB)</b>		

**In attendance** – Cllr A. Lowe (AL), Kath Howard – Friends of Bowring Park and Andrew Roberts – Deputy Town Clerk (AR).

**89/19 Welcome by the Chairman** - Cllr de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**90/19 Apologies for Absence** – An apology was received from Cllr L Carter – on holiday. This was accepted.

**91/19 Declaration of Interest** – None were declared at this point.

### **92/19 Bowring Park Pathway**

PMJ introduced Kath Howard to the meeting and briefly provided an explanation as to previous discussions that had been held as a result of the Friends of Bowring Park proposal for the provision of a footpath which would be suitably surfaced that would encourage greater participation within the Park. He wished to record his congratulations for her work on behalf of the Friends Group. His view was that Kath should be invited to attend at this meeting in order to explain the proposal further, which had been agreed. Kath Howard addressed the Committee and wished to thank the Committee for the opportunity to address members. She indicated that this proposal had been placed before her approximately 12 months ago she was after support from the Town Council but not limited to financial support. She indicated that there was a tarmac path and the proposal was the construction of an additional path, she made reference to the previously prepared paper which outlined the proposal further. This was required for two main reasons with the main reason being for accessibility mainly for disabled users due to the muddy conditions in part which restricted the use of the park. The second reason was to encourage increased participation of fitness, i.e. walkers for health; couch to 5k runners and possibility of junior parkrun. The idea was to create a surfaced path which could be marked to indicate the length. She had received some questions related to the overall cost but also future maintenance – in relation to the cost she was of the opinion that she was not able to assess the required cost as it had not been established as to the specification that was required. KH also made reference to the requirements for consultation however her view was that this would unduly raise expectations that could not be fulfilled. KH referred to the number of positive comments that she had received confirming support to the proposal, but she wanted to “hold their enthusiasm”.

KH also outlined that people were always questioning as to where funding could be obtained. She was of the view that there would be available funding sources if the idea was deemed to be of benefit to the community. She outlined that sources included Awards for All, National Lottery etc. She was merely obtaining overall support from the Town Council in principle to the proposal at this stage.

PMJ commented that financial contributions could be obtained from any development proposals and offered assistance if required.

AL enquired that the right of way extended from Haygate Road to the Holyhead Road but that the proposal only related to a smaller element. KH responded that at this stage only the smaller loop was intended to be as part of the "loop" but that right of way funding was available.

SH enquired as to whether the park was locked at night. By way of response KH indicated that the park was not locked at night, whereas vehicles could be prevented by the lockable bollards users on foot could not be prevented.

JG indicated the current methods that were utilised in other areas of the country on a similar basis that was used to encourage greater participation in fitness.

FB referred to previous comments that had been made that usage in the park was lower and that the Town Council was keen to promote greater usage.

AL enquired as to whether this proposal was ambitious enough, he questioned as to whether there was an argument to re-surface other areas. KH indicated that she had previously held discussions with Telford & Wrekin Council that indicated that additional funding might be available.

SdL requested that this particular item should be included as an agenda item in the meeting in January 2020. If the Borough Council were in principle in supporting the proposal there was a desire to seek their general approval to the scheme and that the Town Council would take the matter further. SdL explained that the proposal would be discussed with the Borough Council to seek their approval to the scheme which would then assist in the scheme proceeding.

PMJ suggested as to whether an initial planning application could be submitted which would realise any objections that may arise.

Following a discussion members were of the view that they supported in principle to the proposal and suggested that the Friends Group should commence an informal consultation.

**93/19 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2019** – The minutes were proposed by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Cllr Hall and RESOLVED by members as a true and accurate record.

**94/19 Matters Arising**

- a. **Speed Indicator Device** – The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the relevant grant monies had been received and that this matter would be able to proceed on the return of the Town Clerk from holiday.
- b. **Defibrillator Report** – The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the relevant invoice had been received and had been paid and that this matter would be able to proceed on the return of the Town Clerk from holiday.
- c. **Bowring Lease** – The Clerk indicated that he had received an amended lease in accordance with the recent meeting that had been held with the Tenants. The Clerk indicated the details of the amendments. The Clerk was requested to arrange a meeting with the tenants in early course.
- d. **Gateway Signs** – Members were advised that Telford & Wrekin Council had raised the relevant job order at Bennetts Bank and Apley Avenue with a target completion date of 10 January 2020 at a total cost of £693.30 excl. VAT. JG enquired as to the future costs for

any further signs, SdL confirmed that there would be no different costs should any further signs were ordered in the future.

- e. **Out of Hours Numbers** – The Clerk indicated that the details of the Office Hours and Out of Emergency numbers had been obtained. It was confirmed that these details should be circulated to all Members. SdL confirmed that the further intention was to produce a pre-printed card that could be prepared and published in due course. AL confirmed as to the Homeless number that had been obtained and he sought confirmation that the correct number was published. It was further suggested as to whether the information could be produced on a card similar to that which was provided by Telford & Wrekin Council to its members. The Clerk indicated that he would make further enquiries accordingly. JG enquired as to whether this list could be presented to office enquirers that would provide the information that was required. A general discussion took place in relation to how this information could be disseminated and also as to whether there was sufficient signage within the Civic Centre area. AL commented that the Wellington Town Council direction indication sign was directing towards the previously occupied element of the Civic Offices, the Clerk indicated that he would investigate the matter further.
- f. **Flag Quotation** – The Clerk advised that a flag quotation had been received for a 5ftx3ft luxury flag at the cost of £94.99 inclusive of VAT and delivery. Following a further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Burns and seconded by Cllr Hosken and agreed that the flag should be acquired.
- g. **Notification of next ICM meeting** – it was noted that the date of the next ICM meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 17 December 2019 at 12:00noon to be held at the Town Council offices.
- h. **ERDF Project 329** – the Clerk confirmed that this matter was still being investigated.
- i. **ICT** – the Chairman confirmed that there had been a meeting recently held between the Town Council and Matthew Bates from Telford & Wrekin Council and that further details were waited, which would then be reported further.

**95/19 Finance**

Agenda items, 7a to 7d were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Cllr deLauney and approved by members.

- 96/19 To consider Draft Budget 2020/21** – Members were referred to the draft budget for 2020/21 that had been tabled. The Chairman outlined that the budget which was only draft at this stage and was open to further discussions. He confirmed that the timetable was that the final budget would be approved at the Full Council meeting in January 2020. He then outlined a number of the main issues and areas of spending within the proposed budget, and that there was an intention to discuss the same further by Group Leaders prior to the January 2020 Full Council meeting.

- 97/19 Regeneration Board Report – 20th November 2019** – the notes of the meeting of the recently held meeting of the Regeneration Board meeting held on the 20 November 2019 were received and noted.

- 98/19 Idverde Meeting** – the notes of the meeting of the recently held meeting of the Regeneration Board meeting held on the 8 November 2019 were received and noted. It was noted that it was the intention of idverde to undertake a “deep cleanse” of principally the Wellington Town Centre, as a result of the meeting.

**99/19 Parking Working Group Report – 20th November 2019** – the notes of the meeting of the recently held meeting of the Parking Working Group meeting held on the 20 November 2019 were received and noted. The Mayor confirmed that he had arranged a meeting with representatives of the Indoor Market, himself and Adam Brookes from Telford & Wrekin Council in order to discuss the Rowland Gate issue further.

**100/19 To agree date and time of the next meeting as** Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 7.00pm

Chairman.....7th January 2020