

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Anthony Lowe
B.A (HONS)



Town Clerk
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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 5th May 2020 commencing at 7.03pm

Cllr S. de Launey (SDL) Chairman	Cllr A. McClements (AM)	Cllr S. Hall (SH)
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE (PMJ)	Cllr M. Hosken (MH)	Cllr J. Gorse (JG)
Cllr L. Carter (LC)		

In attendance – Cllr. Lowe, Andrew Roberts- Deputy Town Clerk and Karen Roper – Town Clerk (KR).

- 145/19 Chairman's Welcome** – Cllr. de Launey welcomed everyone to the second virtual meeting of P&R commenting that this meeting would be live streamed on Facebook for the first time. He also commented that the last Planning Committee was streamed and one of our members were unhappy that no appropriate discussion had taken place before this happened. He reminded members that as a local authority we were under a duty to be open and transparent. He then requested that agenda items 6b and 10 are discussed in closed session due to these items needing to remain confidential as they were about personnel and business interests.
- 146/19 Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies for absence.
- 147/19 Declaration of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest at this point on the agenda.
- 148/19 To Appoint Members to the following Vacancies.**
- **Policy & Resources** – Cllr Gorse nominated Cllr McClements – all were in agreement
 - **Planning** – Cllr Gorse nominated Cllr Latter – all were in agreement.
 - **Regeneration Board** - Cllr Gorse nominated herself and all were in agreement.
- 149/19 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2020** – The minutes were proposed by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Cllr Gorse and RESOLVED by members as a true and accurate record.
- 150/19 Matters Arising**
- a. **Speed Indicator Device (SID)** – The Clerk had circulated the completed an audit of the lighting columns to members and the following areas were identified as priorities.
- Haygate Road
 - Herbert Avenue
 - North Road
 - Holyhead Road

Members clarified Herbert Avenue not Road as noted in the previous report. The Clerk reported that Herbert Ave would require a socket and post installation as the columns are not suitable to mount the SID. The Clerk was also requested to chase costs to install posts and sockets and try to ensure the SID's are installed at the above locations as quickly as possible.

Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said that during the lockdown, racers are using the area as a speed circuit through to Haygate Rd and back down to Wrekin Road. The Clerk was asked to notify the new Police Chief Inspector.

b. Gateway Signs – The Clerk reported that the orders for the signs had been placed in the following areas but the contractor was now reporting and 180 day turnaround due to current circumstances.

- **Dawley Road** - awaiting confirmation on location.
- **After Junction 7** - coming from Shrewsbury and before Vesey – need to visit site to double check the location.
- **The Admaston Road** - into Wellington – job raised. Currently awaiting materials. Target completion is 11/06 although subject to change.

The Clerk was asked to chase the Apley Avenue sign in particular as this had originally been 'lost' by the contractor.

c. Defibrillator Report – Cllr Gorse said she had met with Cllr John Thompson who confirmed installation location was at the Brooklands shopping centre.

d. Bins - Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said the problem is getting worse as cardboard boxes are being piled on top of bins and traders were adding to the eyesore. The Clerk had reported the issue to Planning enforcement and they had sent it to Neighbourhood Enforcement Services who said they would deal with the problem after the lockdown. Cllr Carter said we need to appreciate that T&W Officers are on different duties but he would make some enquiries and see if he can help to resolve the problem.

151/19 Finance - Reports had previously been sent to members.

Cllr Hosken proposed agenda items, 7a to 7c for acceptance subject to the satisfactory resolution to the emailed questions posed by Cllr Lowe. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gorse and approved by members.

Cllr de Launey said agenda item 7d should be put on hold until some of the headings can be amended.

Agenda Item 7e, the Deputy Clerk reported that the External Auditor had put back the completion date by one month to the end of July. He had contacted the Internal Auditor and asked that she identify a date to inspect the accounts. All work on the accounts for year ending 31st March 2020 will be presented to P&R and Full Council for approval in July and sent for external auditor's approval at the end of July.

Cllr Hosken said that thanks were due to the Staff for working to allow the council to continue to operate in these difficult circumstances. Members were all in agreement. Cllr de Launey said that there would be a virtual staff meeting on Monday to ensure all staff were coping.

Agenda Item 7f – Cllr de Launey reported there was lost income from the Parade toilets, and from room rent. To counter the losses he said an application could be made to furlough the Toilet Staff so the Government would cover 80% of their wages. Following discussion members were not happy with this proposal and agreed it should not go ahead. Any applications made would be withdrawn and contingency funds would be used to cover the shortfall if necessary.

- 152/19 Grant Funding Application Form** – The Clerk had distributed a draft document which helped to grant aid Covid volunteer groups that may not always have bank accounts and were in need of products such as PPE straight away. Members were asked to recommend groups in their wards to forward applications. Cllr Hosken proposed acceptance of the amended application form, he was seconded by Cllr Carter and all members voted in favour.
- 153/19 Kindle Appeal** - Cllr Carter suggested as the cream teas project could not go ahead due to distribution problems, the money should be used to help to provide Kindle units. Following discussion he proposed that £2,000.00 be donated and was seconded by Cllr Gorse. Members all felt this was a great idea and would help to ease isolation for people in hospitals and care homes. Cllr de Launey proposed an amended donation amount of £2,500.00 and was seconded by Cllr Gorse, members all voted wholeheartedly in favour.
- 154/19 Tributes to Late Members** – The Clerk asked if members had seen the excellent tribute to former members including Mary Lewis and Frank Burns in the Shropshire Star. She requested members consider purchasing planters to be placed outside of the Town Council Offices. It was proposed by Cllr de Launey, 2nd by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE and agreed by members to provide 3 planters with brass plaques in memory of Cllr Mary Lewis, Cllr Denis Allen and Cllr Frank Burns. Cllr McClements welcomed the names of former town councillors being used to name roads in the new development at Arleston.
- 19.55pm The Chairman asked the Clerk to quote the meeting closure notice under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 section 5, to enable exclusion the public and press during consideration of Agenda items 6b and 10. Cllr de Launey proposed the exclusion, was seconded by Cllr Hosken and all members were in agreement. The Deputy Clerk confirmed the meeting was no longer being live streamed on Facebook**
- 155/19 Future Delivery of the Parade Toilets Facility** – The Chairman informed members that a report would be tabled at the next meeting detailing costs and alternative arrangements.

Date and time of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 2nd June 2020 at 7.00pm.

Chairman.....2nd June 2020