

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr P. Fairclough



Town Clerk
KAREN ROPER
B.A (HONS) DMS
Civic Offices, Larkin Way
Tan Bank, Wellington
Telford TF1 1LX
Tel: 01952 567697
Email: wellingtontowncouncil@telford.gov.uk
www.wellington-shropshire.gov.uk

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 6th October 2020 commencing at 7.04 pm

Present

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

In attendance – Kathy Mulholland and Adam Brookes from T&W, Alex Moore Press, Cllr. Roberts, Andrew Roberts- Deputy Town Clerk and Karen Roper – Town Clerk.

- 01/20 Chairman's Welcome** – Cllr. de Launey welcomed Kathy Mulholland and Adam Brookes from Telford and Wrekin to the meeting. He informed members of the omission of election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman from the agenda following the Annual Council Meeting. He also wished to bring forward issues from the additional Regeneration Board meeting, held on Friday 2nd October and suggested that a further meeting is organised by the Clerk prior to the Full Council meeting to rectify the situation. Members agreed with his suggestion.
- 02/20 Apologies for Absence** – There were apologies for absence from Cllr McClements.
- 03/20 Declaration of Interest** – There were no declarations of Interest made at this point.
- 04/20 Presentation from Adam Brookes (AB)** – Adam had been invited to the meeting to discuss the motion made to Full Council from Cllr Hosken and 2nd by Cllr Roberts relating to traffic management on Ercall Lane. AB said the current temporary one way system was an attempt to improve safety in the area. In the summer there had been problems with volume of traffic and irresponsible parking that had created a dangerous situation. He would like to see the scheme in place for 6 months so that people can get used to it and it had the opportunity to 'bed in'. He was happy to work with Wellington/Wrockwardine and Much Wenlock Councils and with residents to hear their views. He confirmed these were not permanent measures and that there were still issues around safety and parking in the area that needed resolution. There was £50k in the capital programme to find a solution and feedback was being collected up to the New year. The Chairman invited Cllrs Roberts and Hosken to respond. Cllr Roberts described the problems of cyclists, walkers and traffic mixing particularly on blind bends. Cllr Hosken said he and Cllr Roberts had attended a meeting with Adam and others on Friday and some people like the changes, others don't. He said the scheme seemed to be reasonably successful but he felt that the signage could be improved because traffic from the schools along Holyhead Road to Ercall Lane was creating a slight rat run past the Buckatree Hotel. He explained that residents were unhappy about the increased volume of traffic and that vehicles are meeting a road closed sign and having to turn around in a small space. They were also breaking traffic regulations by crossing double lines. AB responded by welcoming the feedback and said the Walkers are Welcome group had also submitted their comments and that the

measures will be tweaked as appropriate. Cllr Carter said he felt this had been a useful, productive discussion which aims to find a long term solution to a complex situation balancing the needs of visitors, residents and landowners. He hoped the dialogue would continue. Cllr Hosken said we were very fortunate to live in a 'green city' environment so close to the Wrekin which had been used for educational purposes in the past. Cllr Gorse asked about the consultation periods and how residents can contribute. AB said the consultation is on the T&W website and there are signs around the Wrekin notifying and directing people to the consultation. LC reminded members there was an application for creating a car park some time ago but this had not been taken forward. Longer term solutions to parking and ways of linking the town via walking routes were needed.

Cllr Roberts reminded members that Wellington is a 'Walkers Are Welcome' town and maps have been published offering different routes to the Wrekin and on weekends parking is available within the town.

The Chairman thanked Adam Brookes for his attendance and summed up discussions stating that Miles had highlighted the problems with volume of traffic and the views of residents' on Ercall Lane and Dorothy had highlighted the dangerous situation for cyclists and walkers mixing with the traffic. Adam said he was happy to work together to find appropriate solutions. The Chairman said this item would be on our next agenda and he hoped Adam would be able to report back to the November meeting. Adam Brookes and Cllr Roberts left the meeting at 19:43.

05/20

Kathy Mulholland (KM) – Presentation on the Government High Street Fund.

KM explained that the Borough had been invited to apply for £25m by the Government. Expressions of Interest were due by 30th October and would be followed up within 12 months by a full business case on urban regeneration. The focus of which would be levelling up the skills agenda and connectivity so Oakengates and Wellington were considered the 'opportunity' towns to hopefully benefit due to their rail links. She said the emphasis would be on the town square and 3 medieval streets highlighting the Orbit as a strong story of local engagement. An initial award of £1m will help to repurpose the old job centre into a multi-functional bookable space for small local businesses to access meeting areas and I.T. Other buildings recognised as needing assistance were 2-4 Church Street and No 4 Market Square where there may be opportunities to provide a viability gap fund to private investors. Cllr Morris-Jones said this is a pleasant story and he hoped that Wellington and Oakengates would get funding and it would not all go to the Telford Centre. The Orbit needs investment to develop the upper floors and offer more leisure facilities. Cllr Carter thanked Kathy for her presentation and for all her efforts to obtain a serious amount of money that would make a difference. KM said there was a general acknowledgement that Arts and Culture has been hit hard and that Wellington has much to offer.

The Chairman thanked Kathy for her presentation on this good news story and looked forward to the Consultants proposals. KM left the meeting.

06/20

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2020 – Cllr Hosken proposed the minutes for acceptance as a true record, he was seconded by Cllr Morris - Jones MBE and members voted unanimously in favour.

07/20

Matters Arising from the above Minutes

- a. **Obscured Sign** - Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said the Wellington sign in Apley was still covered by tree branches. The Clerk would request the foliage obscuring the sign on Grainger Drive / Alpey Avenue is cut back
- b. **Traffic on Church Street / Charlton Street** - Cllr Morris-Jones said the situation has not improved. Cllr Carter asked for a date in the diary to discuss the situation including improved signage with Highways.

08/20 Finance – Members had received papers and the following points were raised:

Taking into account the above questions Cllr Hosken proposed the finance reports referenced 6a – 6c be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Gorse and members voted unanimously in favour.

The Chairman said it was unacceptable that the finance papers for August were given to members today and were not available well before this meeting. He asked for assurances from Staff that this would not happen again, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk agreed this would not happen again. The Chairman moved the budget report against expenditure for acceptance this was seconded and agreed by members.

Cllr de Launey said that the draft Budget for year 2021/22 would be presented to members in December and the final budget presented in January for the Full Council to set the Precept.

09/20 Grants Panel - The Chairman proposed power is devolved to the Grants Panel to make awards within the parameters of the budget. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE asked what provision would there be for Full Council to look at the decisions made by the Grants Panel. Cllr de Launey said Full Council could refer back anything it was unhappy about. Cllr Gorse asked for the actual date of the Grants Panel and it was agreed that the closing date to accept grant applications was 12th October and the panel would meet the following week. The Chairman proposed that the Policy and Resources Committee devolve power to the grants panel to make awards within the parameters of the budget. This was seconded by Cllr Gorse and agreed unanimously by members

10/20 Tribute to George Evans – Following the sad loss of George a proposal to produce a book celebrating his life had been sent to all members. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said he did not feel a book would justify his contribution to Wellington and perhaps a more visible lasting tribute should be considered such as a memorial in the Peace Garden. Cllr Davis suggested a rock sculpture perhaps of the Wrekin is placed in the Peace Garden. It was proposed by Cllr de Launey 2nd by Cllr Morris-Jones that enquiries are made of local artists to forward their ideas. This was unanimously agreed by members.

11/20 Events and Communication Committee – Held its first meeting on 29th September. Cllr de Launey said that any expenditure needed by the committee could come to P&R for approval but within the new budget document they would be allocated their own budget.

12/20 Date of Next Meeting – The Clerk had issued a risk assessment, report and links to all the latest Government / NALC / Borough Council advice on Covid and Face to Face meetings to all councillors. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said having looked through the papers we should return to Face to Face meetings. Cllr Gorse said that the advice was to continue with remote meetings and totally disagreed with his view adding that Zoom meetings are working well and we should continue until the advice changes. Cllr Carter said he had worked every day since the lockdown but infection figures are rising and whilst this is the case we should not go against the current advice. He added the Borough were doing hybrid meetings which may require some investment to purchase equipment but enabled meetings where some can be present and others can dial in. Cllr de Launey formally proposed that Wellington Town Council should continue to meet remotely and the situation will be reviewed in January 2021. This was seconded by Cllr Gorse and put to a recorded vote, resulting in 5:1 in favour, Cllr Morris Jones MBE against. The next virtual meeting date was agreed as 3rd November 2020.

Chairman.....3rd November 2020

