

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Anthony Lowe
B.A (HONS)



Town Clerk
KAREN ROPER
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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 7th January 2020 commencing at 7.00pm.

Cllr S. de Launey (SDL) Chairman	Cllr. P. Morris-Jones MBE (PMJ) Vice Chairman	Cllr S. Hall (SH)
Cllr J. Gorse (JG)	Cllr F. Burns (FB)	

In attendance – Cllr A. Lowe (AL), Cllr P. Fairclough and Karen Roper – Town Clerk (KR).

- 101/19 Welcome by the Chairman** - Cllr de Launey wished everyone a Happy New Year and warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 102/19 Apologies for Absence** – An apology was received from Cllr L Carter due to work commitments and Cllr M. Hosken due to illness. The apologies were accepted.
- 103/19 Declaration of Interest** – None were declared at this point.
- 104/19 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2019** – The minutes were proposed by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE, seconded by Cllr Gorse and **RESOLVED** by members as a true and accurate record.
- 105/19 Matters Arising**
- a. Speed Indicator Device (SID)** – The Clerk reported that the traffic officer had been directed to prioritise working on Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) and had therefore been unable to progress the SID. She had promised to start work on this project in the next couple of weeks.
- b. Defibrillator Report** – The Clerk confirmed that two installations would take place on 9th January at the Shawbirch shopping centre and the Co-op on Roden Close. Members discussed alternative locations. It was agreed to see how the initial installations are received then to roll out the project to other areas. Cllr Fairclough commented on a training session she had attended at the Shawbirch Medical Practice which she felt would be of interest to other members. The Clerk agreed to see if there was a desire for a session to be organised for members. The Clerk was also asked to approach borough councillors to see if they would be willing to commit their ward funding to the project.
- c. Bowring Lease** – The Clerk reported that the tenants had been on an extended holiday returning on 10th January. Work would continue to reach an agreement on their return.

- d. **Gateway Signs** – Members were advised that Telford & Wrekin Council were on target to install signs at Bennetts Bank and Apley Avenue on 10th January 2020. It was agreed to see how the initial installations are received then to roll out the project to other areas.
- e. **Out of Hours Numbers** – The Clerk said she had email approval from Telford and Wrekin that the numbers could be distributed widely. It was agreed that the numbers would be laminated and distributed to all members in a credit card size.
- f. **Notification of next ICM meeting** – it was noted that the date of the next ICM meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at 12:00 noon at the Town Council offices. Members asked if the Clerk could try to rearrange for Tuesday 21st January at 10.00am
- g. **ERDF Project 329** – the Clerk confirmed she had received further correspondence from two Telford and Wrekin officers but no records / back up evidence could be found in the Town Council records. Members discussed options and concluded this was a moral not a legal obligation as we have no budget heading and no record of this agreement. Members asked that the Clerk meet with relevant officers to negotiate some return for the payment which may be in the form of a presentation for the festival. Cllr. de Launey proposed that the Clerk negotiate with officers but may pay up to £2,000 towards the project. This was 2nd by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE and agreed by members.
- h. **ICT** – the Clerk informed members that the T&W officer assisting with this project was currently on leave. The job would be progressed on his return.
- i. **Idverde** – the Clerk reported that she had been invited to a monthly meeting with Idverde officers to identify problems, the next date being 7th February. The Clerk was asked to find out other parishes perceptions of the service. Members also raised the issue of appropriate disposal of rubbish created by shops / businesses in the town as an additional problem.

106/19 Finance

Agenda items, 6a to 6c were proposed for acceptance by Cllr de Launey, seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE and approved by members subject to the satisfactory resolution of questions raised being answered by email as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 6d – was unavailable and would be confirmed at the February meeting.

- 107/19 To consider Draft Budget 2020/21** – The Chairman said he had not received any comments from members on the budget since its presentation to the December P&R and Full Council. Cllr Burns asked about underspend on the current budget as at the end of December 2019. The Chairman said this was in the region of £50k and the 2020/21 budget indicated a £40k reserve amounting to 1 month of operational costs. The Clerk commented that good practice would be a minimum of 3 months operational reserve. Members remarked that tying up 3 months' worth of operational costs would be pointless and should the worst scenario happen we could seek assistance from the Borough. The budget was proposed for acceptance by Cllr Burns, 2nd by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE. All members were in agreement and Cllr Morris-Jones MBE complimented the Chairman for his hard work.

108/19 To Propose a Precept for 2020/2021 to Full Council on 14th January 2020.

Cllr de Launey said there had been no changes to the budget presented in December and therefore proposed a precept of £462,500.00 be put to Full Council on 14th January. His proposal was seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE and agreed unanimously by members. The Chairman said he would take questions from members at Full Council.

109/19 Bowring Park Pathway Project – Following the presentation to the December meeting, Cllr de Launey proposed that the recommendation to Full Council is to support, help and assist the Friends of Bowring Park with no commitment to any expenditure at this time. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Burns and agreed by members.

110/19 Regeneration Board Report – 18th December 2019 – the notes of the above meeting of the Regeneration Board were unavailable and would be forwarded to members at a later date.

The Chairman made members aware of the following proposals from the Board:

- To extend the contracts of Sally Themans and Jocelyne Fields to March 2021
- Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for the above contracts will be agreed and presented to the a future meeting of the Town Council
- The newly appointed Events Co-ordinator will be working towards picking up some of Sally's work going forward.

111/19 To agree date and time of the next meeting as Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7.00pm
Apologies were received from Cllrs de Launey and Lowe because of holiday commitments.

Chairman.....4th February 2020