

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Usman Ahmed



Town Clerk
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Minutes of the Annual General & Full Council Meeting of **14th May 2024 starting at 6.40pm**

livestreamed on Facebook.

Present:

Mayor Cllr. P. Davis	Cllr. L. Carter	Cllr. S. de Launey	Cllr U. Ahmed	Cllr. A. Lowe
Cllr. L. Jinks	Cllr J. Pierce	Cllr. S. Williams	Cllr. J. McGinn	Cllr. C. Barker
Cllr. K. Tomlinson	Cllr. M. Jobe	Cllr. R. Snell	Cllr. J. Latter	
Cllr. L. Woolley	Cllr. J. Gorse	Cllr. G. Cook	Cllr. G. Luter	

In attendance. Rev Tim Carter, eleven members of the public, and Karen Roper Town Clerk/CEO.

01/24 Election of the Mayor – Cllr Davis called for nominations. Cllr Latter proposed Cllr. Ahmed as Mayor he was seconded by Cllr Carter. Cllr Carter said it is a great honour for him to second the nomination and for us as a council to have the first Muslim Mayor to represent the changing community in Wellington. There were no further nominations and the following members voted in favour Cllrs, Davis, Jinks, Tomlinson, Woolley, Carter, Pierce, Jobe, Gorse, de Launey, Williams, Snell, Cook, Ahmed, McGinn, Latter, Luter, Lowe, and Barker. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

02/24 Chain of Office - Cllr Davis presented the Mayoral Chain to Cllr Ahmed. Cllr Ahmed continued with the meeting.

03/24 New Mayors Address - Cllr Ahmed addressed the Council and said what an honour it was to accept the office of Mayor he thanked the people of College ward for electing him and Cllr Carter for his help and support. He paid tribute to the former Mayor Cllr Davis in his second term of office stating he always brought great passion dedication and fortitude to the role, he thanked him for his service and hoped he could rely on his support and advice. He said it is incredibly humbling to be the first Asian Mayor for Wellington, he promised to be an active Mayor bringing all our communities together. He would champion the causes he believes in and nominated 'Man in Place' as his mayoral charity as it does such fantastic work. He said his values were to serve others, with compassion, respect and tolerance.

04/24 Tributes to the Outgoing Mayor - Cllr Gorse said that Cllr Davis had done a great job as usual so thanks and she was sure he would be there to help our new Mayor.

Cllr de Launey said he had great pride in the people who take on the role as Mayor, the way Cllr Davis had conducted himself as Mayor and the easy way of meeting and greeting people is a wonder so thank you.

Cllr Jinks congratulated Cllr Ahmed on his election and said Cllr Davis had been a great ambassador for Wellington. She said thank you for all you have done and also thanks to your family as it is with their support that you succeed as Mayor.

05/24 Election of Deputy Mayor - Cllr Ahmed is called for nominations for the Election of

Deputy Mayor. Cllr Davis proposed Cllr Snell as Deputy Mayor for 2024-25 and was seconded by Cllr Pierce. There being no further nominations, the following members voted in favour Cllrs, Davis, Jinks, Tomlinson, Woolley, Carter, Pierce, Jobe, Gorse, de Launey, Williams, Snell, Cook, Ahmed, McGinn, Latter, Luter, Lowe, and Barker. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

06/24 Deputy Mayor's Chain of Office - Cllr Ahmed presented the Deputy Mayor's Chain to Cllr Snell who thanked members for his election.

07/24 Apologies – The Mayor called for apologies. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Day and Holding. The following members approved the apologies. Voting in favour were Cllrs, Davis, Jinks, Tomlinson, Woolley, Carter, Pierce, Jobe, Gorse, de Launey, Williams, Snell, Cook, Ahmed, McGinn, Latter, Luter, Lowe, and Barker. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

08/24 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest received at this point.

09/24 Election of Policy & Resources Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Cllr Ahmed called for nominations to serve on the Policy & Resources Committee. Cllr Gorse proposed Cllrs Carter, Cook, Luter, McGinn, Pierce and Davis. Cllr Tomlinson proposed Cllr de Launey, Cllr Davis seconded the nominations and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that the above councillors serve as the Policy and Resources Committee with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Voting in favour were Cllrs Davis, Jinks, Tomlinson, Woolley, Carter, Pierce, Jobe, Gorse, de Launey, Williams, Snell, Cook, Ahmed, McGinn, Latter, Luter, Lowe, and Barker. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

10/24 Election of the Independent Grievance Panel – Cllrs Day and Holding were nominated by Luter seconded by Cllr McGinn, Cllr de Launey nominated Cllr Jobe and he was seconded by Cllr Tomlinson. Cllrs Day, Holding and Jobe were unanimously elected to serve on the panel with the Mayor as independent Chairman. Voting in favour were Cllrs, Davis, Jinks, Tomlinson, Woolley, Carter, Pierce, Jobe, Gorse, de Launey, Williams, Snell, Cook, Ahmed, McGinn, Latter, Luter, Lowe, and Barker. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

11/24 Election of Planning Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Cllr Barker nominated Cllrs: McGinn, Cook, Gorse, Williams, Woolley and Davis, he was seconded by Cllr Snell. Cllr Tomlinson nominated Cllr Jobe she was seconded by Cllr de Launey.

There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve on the Planning Committee with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (ex officio) until the next Annual Council Meeting. Voting in favour were Cllrs, Davis, Jinks, Tomlinson, Woolley, Carter, Pierce, Jobe, Gorse, de Launey, Williams, Snell, Cook, Ahmed, McGinn, Latter, Luter, Lowe, and Barker. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

12/24 Election of the Events and Communications Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor and Deputy Mayor ex officio) Cllr Davis proposed Cllr Barker, Day, Holding, Woolley, Williams and Gorse he was seconded by Cllr Snell. Cllr de Launey proposed Cllr Lowe and he was seconded by Cllr Tomlinson.

There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as (ex officio) on the Events and Communications Committee until the next Annual Council meeting. Voting in favour were Cllrs, Davis, Jinks, Tomlinson, Woolley, Carter, Pierce, Jobe, Gorse, de Launey, Williams, Snell, Cook, Ahmed, McGinn, Latter, Luter, Lowe, and Barker. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

13/24 Election of representatives to the Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) Wrekin Area Committee (WAC) (2 vacancies)- Cllr: Pierce nominated Cllrs Latter and McGinn she was seconded by Cllr Snell. There were no further nominations so Cllrs Latter and McGinn were elected to serve on the Wrekin Area Committee. Voting in favour were Cllrs, Davis, Jinks, Tomlinson, Woolley, Carter, Pierce, Jobe, Gorse, de Launey, Williams, Snell, Cook, Ahmed, McGinn, Latter, Luter, Lowe, and Barker. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

14/24 To Appoint the Internal Auditor for 2024/25- Cllr de Launey proposed that BSS & Co are appointed as Internal Auditors for 2024/25. He was seconded by Cllr Davis voting in favour were Cllrs, Davis, Jinks, Tomlinson, Woolley, Carter, Pierce, Jobe, Gorse, de Launey, Williams, Snell, Cook, Ahmed, McGinn, Latter, Luter, Lowe, and Barker. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

15/24 General Power of Competence – A comprehensive briefing note had been circulated to all members. The Clerk explained the council needed to confirm the following three conditions for eligibility to exercise the General Power of Competence:

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.

The Mayor read the following resolution to members:

Wellington Town Council resolves from 14th May 2024, 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.

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

16/24 Receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th April 2024 It was proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Jinks and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2024 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record.

17/24 Matters Arising – none as all are covered in the committee minutes.

18/24 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

a) **Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 07.05.24 –** Cllr de Launey said the minutes had been circulated. There were no further questions from members.

b) **Planning Committee 18.04.24 & 08.05.24 –** Cllr Snell presented the minutes that had been previously circulated with the agenda and no further comments were made.

c) **Events and Communications Committee 30.04.24 –** Cllr Barker presented the minutes and there were no further comments from members.

19/24 Notice of Casual Vacancy – The Clerk reported that a written resignation addressed to the former Mayor had been received from Cllr Hosken due to his ill health. She said

that following this meeting the Elections team would be advised and the process of advertising the vacancy would start. The Mayor said that on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Ercall Ward Cllr Hosken should be thanked for his long service. Cllr Carter said he agreed that Cllr Hosken should be recognised for his service and dedication given over many years.

20/24 To receive reports from the Community Action Team – The Clerk said the new style written reports had been circulated and she reminded members they could contact her and report issues at any time.

21/24 To note the minutes of the Regeneration Board held 18th April 2024

22/24 To Receive information on the upcoming Twinning Visit – Cllr Lowe said the Civic welcome will take place at 2.00pm on Friday 7th June and is FOC and all members are invited to attend. The catering will be and afternoon tea. The ticket price for the farewell dinner including a welcome drink and 'Death by Umpah' entertainment will be £30.00 per head. The Mayor will hopefully be in attendance and the departure date is 10th June. All Councillors are welcome.

23/24 Date of Next Meeting – was agreed as 11th June 2024

Chairman11th June 2024