

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Paul Davis



Town Clerk
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ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the in person Annual General Council Meeting held in Civic Offices on Tuesday 10th May 2022 commencing at 6.45pm.

Present:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mayor- Cllr P. Davis | Cllr D. Roberts | Cllr J. Gorse | Cllr M. Hosken |
| Cllr S. Hall | Cllr U. Ahmed | Cllr J. Latter | Cllr. C. Barker |
| Cllr K. Tomlinson | Cllr L. Jinks | Cllr S. de Launey | Cllr. G. Cook |
| Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE | Cllr J. Pierce | Cllr G. Luter | Cllr P. Fairclough |
| Cllr L. Carter (arriving late) | Cllr A. Lowe | Cllr A. McClements | Cllr C. Brittain |

In attendance: Karen Roper, Town Clerk, Andrew Roberts, Deputy Town Clerk, Rev. Tim Carter.

Public Open Session – Cllr Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6.45pm. He made the following comments and presentations;

Serving Wellington as Mayor had been an honour and a privilege and he had taken great pride in presiding at events such as the Bayley Mile and the Festival. He said these events help to create a binding / cohesive community and are an absolute triumph for Wellington. Our staff deserve recognition for all their organisational skills and efforts made to deliver services on a day to day basis. He then made the following presentations;

- 1.0 Thank you card and flowers to the Clerk
- 2.0 Thank you card to the Deputy Clerk
- 3.0 Thank you card and flowers to The Events and Communications Manager
- 4.0 Thank you card and flowers to The Events, Marketing and Communications Officer
- 5.0 Verbal sincere thanks to Mick and Joe our West Team
- 6.0 Verbal sincere thanks to fellow Councillors.
- 7.0 Verbal sincere thanks to Rev Carter for his support over the mayoral year.

The Mayor also wished to recognise Telford and Wrekin Council for their investment of time, expertise and finance given to develop plans for the future of Wellington.

The Mayor then called upon Rev. Carter to say prayers. Rev. Carter asked members to pray for things to improve in the Ukraine and for the ongoing work of the Town Council.

6.57p.m. Annual General Meeting (livestreamed on Facebook)

01/22 Election of Mayor – The Mayor, Cllr Davis called for nominations to elect a new Mayor. Cllr Hosken proposed Cllr Roberts and was seconded by Cllr de Launey. There being no further nominations the following members voted in favour of Cllr Roberts being elected to serve as Mayor until the next Annual meeting. P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker. There were no votes against and no abstentions. Cllr Roberts said she was honoured to accept the nomination, thanked members for her election and

put on the chain of office.

02/22 Signing the Acceptance of Office Form by the Incoming Mayor - Cllr Roberts thanked everyone for electing her and duly signed the Acceptance of Office form. She was then congratulated by members who gave her a round of applause.

03/22 Tributes to the Outgoing Mayor.

Cllr Morris-Jones MBE – said that Cllr Davis had a difficult year but he had been extremely busy. As a younger Mayor he was exactly the sort of person we need which makes him think that our Mayor should serve at least a 2 year term of office as a 12 month term only allows a person to get started. He then thanked Cllr. Davis for all his work.

Cllr Ahmed said the Mayor had been very busy Facebook has reports of all the shops he had opened and all the events he had attended. He had represented and promoted the town well.

Cllr Gorse thanked Cllr Davis for his enthusiastic approach to his year of office, he had thrown himself into the role and was a valued member of the Labour group.

19:10 Cllr L. Carter joined the meeting

Cllr de Launey said he would like to thank Cllr Davis for all his work and especially because he specifically went out and worked with the WEST team for a few hours. As a younger Mayor it was so good to see someone physically put their back into the role.

Cllr Jinks said we should also thank the outgoing Mayoress who had been behind The Mayor 100% and she should be sincerely thanked for her work.

Councillor Davis thanked everyone for their kind words and received an enthusiastic round of applause.

04/22 Election of Deputy Mayor - Cllr Roberts called for nominations for the Election of Deputy Mayor. Cllr de Launey proposed Cllr Lowe as Deputy Mayor for 2022-23 and was seconded by Cllr Tomlinson. There being no further nominations, the following members voted in favour of Cllr Lowe being elected to serve as Deputy Mayor until the next Annual meeting. P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker. There were no votes against and no abstentions. Cllr Lowe said he felt honoured to accept the position and put on the Deputy Mayor's chain of office.

05/22 Apologies – Apologies were accepted from Cllr Alvey due to illness.

06/22 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Roberts called for declarations of interest. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE declared his interest relation of the Orbit. The following members voted in favour of accepting his declaration, P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, L. Carter, S. de Launey, G. Luter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker. There were no votes against and no abstentions

07/22 Election of Policy & Resources Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Cllr Roberts called for nominations to serve on the Policy & Resources Committee. It was proposed and seconded that the following Councillors serve as the Policy and Resources Committee with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (each ex officio) until the next Annual Council Meeting. Cllrs: Hosken, Morris-Jones MBE, Hall, Gorse, Davis, Carter and de Launey.

The following members voted in favour P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, L. Carter, S. de Launey, G. Luter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

08/22 To Note the Personnel Committee as the 3 x Group Leaders – Namely Cllrs Hosken, Gorse and de Launey.

09/22 Election of the Independent Grievance Panel – Cllrs Jinks, Ahmed and Cook were proposed and seconded to serve on the panel with the Mayor as independent Chairman. There being no further nominations the following members voted in favour of the above members being elected to serve as the Independent Grievance Panel until the next Annual meeting. P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, L. Carter, G. Luter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

10/22 Election of Planning Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor ex officio) Cllr Roberts called for nominations to serve on the Planning Committee. Cllrs: Alvey, Hall, Jinks, de Launey, Luter, Latter and Cook were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the following members P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour there were no votes against and no abstentions.

11/22 Election of the Events and Communications Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor and Deputy Mayor ex officio) Cllr Roberts called for nominations to serve on the above Committee. Cllrs: Tomlinson, Lowe, Alvey, Hall, Pierce, Barker and Davis and were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the following members P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

12/22 Election of active working groups and Town Council representatives on outside Bodies

a) Conservation Area Working Group (3 vacancies) - Cllr Roberts called for nominations to serve on the Conservation Area Working Group. Cllrs Pierce, Tomlinson and Jinks were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the following members, P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

b) Car Parking Working Group (5 vacancies) - Cllr Roberts called for nominations to serve on the Car Parking Working Group Cllrs: de Launey, McClements, Gorse, Hosken and Morris-Jones MBE were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the following Councillors, P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

c) Climate Change Emergency Working Group (5 vacancies) – Cllr Roberts called for nominations to serve on the above working group; Cllrs Davis, Latter, Lowe, Alvey and Luter were proposed and seconded. There being no further nominations the following Councillors P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter,

A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

d) Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) - Wrekin Area Committee (WAC) (2 vacancies)- Cllr. Roberts called for nominations. Cllrs Alvey, Ahmed and Davis were proposed and seconded. Following a vote Cllrs Davis and Ahmed were elected. The following members, P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour of Cllrs. Davis and Ahmed being appointed to serve as representatives on the WAC.

e) Telford Bus Users Group (2 vacancies) - Cllr Roberts called for nominations; Cllr Roberts and Davis were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the following members, P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour of Cllrs. Davis and Roberts being appointed to serve as Town Council representatives on the Telford Bus Users Group.

f) Walkers are Welcome- (1 vacancy) Cllr Roberts called for nominations, Cllr Pierce was proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the following members voted in favour, P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

13/22 To Appoint the Internal Auditor for 2022/23- Cllr Roberts called for a proposal from members to appoint the internal auditor for 2022/23. Cllr de Launey proposed Harjinder Atwal of HKA Accountax again be appointed as internal auditor for 2022/23, he was seconded by Cllr Hosken and the appointment was confirmed unanimously by the following members P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

14/22 General Power of Competence – A briefing note had been circulated to all members. The Clerk explained the council needed to confirm the following three conditions for eligibility to continue 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.

Cllr Morris-Jones MBE asked for a brief explanation of the Power of General Competence. Cllr de Launey gave an explanation and proposed acceptance of the following resolution;

Wellington Town Council resolves from 10th May 2022, 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.

Cllr de Launey was 2nd by Cllr Hosken and the following members voted in favour of the above resolution: P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

15/22 Receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2022 – It was Proposed by Cllr Hosken that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record. He was seconded by Cllr Jinks and the following members P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

16/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes - None as all are covered in the Committee Reports

17/22 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

a) Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 03.05.22 – Cllr de Launey made the following comments

- **George Evans Tribute** – The plaque has been ordered together with the new signs and a formal opening event will be arranged.
- **SIDs** – Members had agreed that 3 x more SIDs should be purchased. Cllr Jinks said there is no punitive action attached to them. Cllr Davis asked what happened to the data collected from the Units. The Clerk said the information is sent to the Police and Highways Dept. at Telford and Wrekin. Cllr Carter said enforcement responsibility sits with the Police and the information informs traffic management schemes. Cllr Tomlinson said she was pleased we would like to procure more units because we are the biggest town in Telford and most people do respond to them by slowing down. The units on Bennetts Bank were particularly effective and by the Cock Hotel people were always trying to beat the lights, there will be a serious accident at some point so we need to do something.
- **End of Year Accounts** – Final accounts for the year 2021/22 will be presented to the June P&R meeting.
- **Town Band Contract** – A further 5 year contract offering £4k per annum to the band was in the process of being drawn up and would be presented to the June meeting of P&R.
- **Mayoral Chain** – Cllr de Launey said the chain is very big now and we have run out of links to engrave. Due to its bulk and weight Cllr Roberts has requested wearing the Jewel on a ribbon, members of P&R were sympathetic. Cllr de Launey proposed that Full Council allow the Mayor to wear the Jewel on a ribbon and he was seconded by Cllr Tomlinson. The following members voted in agreement P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, , D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and one abstention, Cllr Morris-Jones MBE felt this action was disrespectful to the work of past Mayors. The chain makes the Mayor instantly recognisable to the public. It must be possible to have more links added to it and in his view we are in danger of losing all our traditions.
- **Year of Health and Wellbeing** – Cllr de Launey said that P&R was recommending support for this initiative from T&W. Cllr McClements proposed both individuals and the Town Council should sign up to promote the services which were very important for both physical and mental health at this time. She was seconded by Cllr Davis and the following members voted in favour P. Davis, S. Hall, K. Tomlinson, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, U. Ahmed, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, A. McClements, M. Hosken, C. Brittain, P. Fairclough and C. Barker voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

- b) **Planning Committee 20.04.22** – Cllr Luter presented the minutes and no further comments were made.
- c) **Events and Communications Committee 26.04.22** – Cllr Pierce presented the minutes and there were no further comments.
- d) **Festival Working Group – 27.04.22 & 04.05.22 Cllr Lowe presented the minutes**
 - Cllr Lowe said the Festival had gone off extremely well and there would be an official debriefing session on 1st June.
 - Cllr Davis said sincere thanks were due to everyone involved in presenting a superb Wellington Festival.
 - Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said members had done a great job.
- e) **Climate Change Emergency Working Group meeting of 30.04.22** - Cllr Davis presented the minutes and explained that a Steering Group had been formed and included community groups.
- f) **Regeneration Board Report 20th April 2022.** – Cllr de Launey presented the report and there were no further questions.

18/22 Date of Next Meeting – was agreed as 14th June 2022

Chairman.....14th June 2022