

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Usman Ahmed



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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of **8th October 2024 starting at 7.00pm**

livestreamed on Facebook.

Present:

Cllr U Ahmed - Mayor	Cllr. C. Barker	Cllr S. Williams	Cllr. P. Davis
Cllr. G. Davis	Cllr. G. Luter	Cllr S. Day	Cllr. J. McGinn
Cllr E. Holding	Cllr. M. Jobe	Cllr. L. Carter	Cllr. R. Snell
Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr. J. Gorse	Cllr. A. Lowe	

In attendance. Rev. Brooke, two members of the public, Karl Jones and Nathan Lyttle from Telford and Wrekin plus two additional engineers, Lynne Skehan Responsible Finance Officer and Karen Roper – CEO/Town Clerk.

53/24 Welcome from the Mayor – Cllr Ahmed welcomed everyone to the meeting especially our Responsible Finance Officer, Lynne Skehan who was in attendance so members could meet her.

The Mayor welcomed Rev. Brooke and invited him to lead prayers. The Mayor thanked him for leading prayers and Rev. Brooke left the meeting.

54/24 Presentation on Church Street Project – The Mayor invited Karl Jones and Nathan Lyttle to present the proposal to members via Power Point.

- Karl said bespoke new Street Furniture will be installed – benches, multi-use bins and also recycling bins, finger and hanging basket posts.
- Retractable bollards at three locations, Market St., New St. and Tan Bank.
- Work on market approach will be done together with the wider work within the Market.
- Start date of the project is January 2025 expecting to last for 1-2 months

Questions from members.

- Cllr. Lowe asked if the 2x happy to chat benches will remain? Answer yes
- Cllrs Lowe and Jinks, how will the bollards work? – Answer - this is an automated system the process, procedure and who would have the authority to operate has yet to be decided and details will be fed back.
- Cllr Lowe asked if some of the hanging baskets be relocated – Answer yes if desired.
- Cllr Lowe could Finger posts be installed indicating the direction to walk towards the Wrekin or the train Station and quoting the distance. Answer yes we can look at incorporating that.
- Cllr Jinks – Asked about the Impact on traders? What liaison will be done with local businesses? Answer - there will be a series of consultations and communications prior to work commencing.

Nathan Lyttle said the project will mirror Market St. through Church St up to Vineyard Road. The drainage will be upgraded, and the curbs renewed. Footpaths will match Market Street using the same paving blocks and new tarmac.

The plan will narrow some areas of carriageway to deter double parking areas and help to control traffic. Hopefully larger vehicles will be deterred from entering and crossing points will be formalised. The railway bridge section was proving the most complex as it has loading issues, so work continues with Network Rail to resolve the challenges. The plan is to retain disabled access to railway station.

The start of project is expected to be April/ May 2025 and will run at the same time as ongoing work at 1 Walker Street and the Orbit, so communication and coordination is key. A little disruption is expected, and liaison is already taking place with Love Wellington at Town Council today. A personalised letter drop is planned to all residents and business likely to be affected. Extensive use of social media / newsletters and local Councillors can all help to keep people informed.

Cllr Davis said he was really pleased with the project and to see the presentation incorporates most of the comments from the Working Group. TIOW magazine is due out in January 2025 and is delivered to every household so this may help to inform people. He thanked both Karl and Nathan for all the time and effort they have put into the project.

The following further comments were made by Councillors:

- Cllr Barker asked what provision has been made for taxis to pick up and drop off? he felt there was a real need to incorporate proper consideration for taxis and those less able needing to be dropped off close to the Station. Answer was the officers would look at how to incorporate this but it would take away parking spaces.
- Cllr Barker said he felt the area should be pedestrianised. Need to be looking at making things easier for pedestrians with mobility issues, it should not be all about cars. He then thanked Karl and Nathan for the interesting presentation.
- Cllr Snell said that traffic emerging from Station Street. should be just a right turn and people tend to ignore it – is the curbing going to be designed to enforce this? Answer; the curbing is already in place and it is appreciated that there is a need to enforce. The situation will be kept under review and consideration given to installation of bollards or planters if necessary. Consideration is being given to install bollards throughout Market Street to deter poor parking behaviour and also to mark out the passing points. Queen Street carriageway will be narrowed. It takes time to change driving behaviour so monitoring of the situation will be ongoing.
- Cllr Carter said thank you to the officers for a fantastic project and said this is just one of the significant investment projects taking place in Wellington. He wished to make it clear to everyone there was no move towards pedestrianisation. The key to success is good communications to the public to spread the positive news that this is more investment into Wellington.
- Cllr Lowe agreed this was a very exciting project. He wished to highlight to Officers that traffic is still trying to turn right into the car park at Wilko's in Market Street. Answer - Officers said that according to reports and information they had the problem had reduced but they would continue to monitor the situation.

55/24 Apologies – The Mayor called for apologies. Apologies were received and approved from Cllrs. Latter, Cook, de Launey, Pierce, Tomlinson and Woolley.

The following members voted in favour of accepting those apologies, Cllr. U. Ahmed, Cllr. C. Barker, Cllr S. Williams, Cllr. P. Davis, Cllr G. Davis Cllr G. Luter, Cllr S. Day, Cllr. J.

McGinn, Cllr E. Holding, Cllr. M. Jobe, Cllr. L. Carter, Cllr. R. Snell, Cllr. L. Jinks, Cllr. J. Gorse, Cllr A. Lowe, there were no abstentions and no votes against.

56/24 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations received at this point.

57/24 Receive and approve the minutes of the following meetings.

Full Council Meeting dated 10th September 2024 (appendix 1) – These were proposed by Cllr McGinn as a true and accurate record, he was seconded by Cllr Williams.

The following members voted in favour of accepting those minutes Cllr. U. Ahmed, Cllr. C. Barker, Cllr S. Williams, Cllr. P. Davis, Cllr G. Davis Cllr G. Luter, Cllr S. Day, Cllr. J. McGinn, Cllr E. Holding, Cllr. M. Jobe, Cllr. L. Carter, Cllr. R. Snell, Cllr. L. Jinks, Cllr. J. Gorse, Cllr A. Lowe, there were no abstentions and no votes against.

58/24 Matters Arising – The Mayor warmly congratulated Cllr Carter on becoming Leader of the Borough Council at Telford and Wrekin, further commenting we are really lucky to have him on the Town Council.

59/24 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

a) Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 01.10.24 (appendix 2) – Cllr. Carter presented the minutes page by page, making the following points;

- **Former Members Recognition Policy** – Cllr Carter described the policy to members.
- **Staffing Matters** – Cllr Carter said the team had undergone personnel changes recently and he thanked them for their resilience.
- **Town Council Strategic Plan** – Cllr Carter said he hoped this would be completed ready to go with the budget for 2026/27

b) Planning Committee minutes of 11.09.24 (appendix 3) – Cllr McGinn presented the minutes page by page and commented that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October would be presented to the November meeting. There were no questions from members.

c) Members noted the date of the next Events and Communications Committee was 15.10.24.

60/24 To agree the policy on honouring past members – Cllr Carter proposed agreement of the policy he was seconded by Cllr Williams. The following members voted in favour of accepting the policy. Cllr. U. Ahmed, Cllr. C. Barker, Cllr S. Williams, Cllr. P. Davis, Cllr G. Davis Cllr G. Luter, Cllr S. Day, Cllr. J. McGinn, Cllr E. Holding, Cllr. M. Jobe, Cllr. L. Carter, Cllr. R. Snell, Cllr. L. Jinks, Cllr. J. Gorse, Cllr A. Lowe, there were no abstentions and no votes against.

61/24 Community Action Team (CAT) – Reports were circulated – Cllr Carter suggested it would be useful to have a full report of the CAT teams' work as there had been significant additional investment this year.

62/24 Date of Next Full Council Meeting – was agreed as Tuesday 12th November 2024

Chairman12th November 2024