

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Usman Ahmed



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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of **10th September 2024 starting at 7.00pm**

livestreamed on Facebook.

Present:

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

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

44/24 Welcome from the Mayor – Cllr Ahmed welcomed everyone to the meeting especially our newest member, Cllr Gemma Davis elected to Ercall Ward on 25th July 2024. He then welcomed Rev Carter and invited him to lead prayers.

Rev. Carter asked members to pray for young people in our community, for schools and colleges that they will continue to be places for our young people to flourish and prosper. He thanked those who bring events to Wellington for the public to enjoy.

45/24 Apologies – The Mayor called for apologies. Apologies were received and approved from Cllrs. Latter, Williams and Day.

The following members voted in favour of accepting those apologies, Cllr. U. Ahmed, Cllr. C. Barker, Cllr. S. de Launey, Cllr. P. Davis, Cllr. L. Jinks, Cllr. G. Davis, Cllr J. Pierce, Cllr G. Cook, Cllr. J. McGinn, Cllr. L. Woolley, Cllr K. Tomlinson, Cllr M. Jobe, Cllr. L. Carter, Cllr. R. Snell, Cllr. E. Holding, Cllr. J. Gorse, Cllr A. Lowe, Cllr G. Luter, there were no abstentions and no votes against.

46/24 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations received at this point.

47/24 Receive and approve the minutes of the following meetings.

- **Full Council Meeting dated 9th July 2024 (appendix 1)** – These were proposed by Cllr Cook as a true and accurate record, he was seconded by Cllr Jinks.

The following members voted in favour of accepting those minutes Cllr. U. Ahmed, Cllr. C. Barker, Cllr. S. de Launey, Cllr. P. Davis, Cllr. L. Jinks, Cllr. G. Davis, Cllr J. Pierce, Cllr G. Cook, Cllr. J. McGinn, Cllr. L. Woolley, Cllr K. Tomlinson, Cllr M. Jobe, Cllr. L. Carter, Cllr. R. Snell, Cllr. E. Holding, Cllr. J. Gorse, Cllr A. Lowe, Cllr G. Luter. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

48/24 Matters Arising - The Mayor reported on his visit to Chatenay Malabry early in the summer where he received a very warm welcome. The hospitality he received was fantastic and he was absolutely looking forward to the twinning visit on 8th May 2025. He thanked Cllr Lowe for translating for him and for accompanying on the visit. He asked the

Clerk to pass on his thanks in writing to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Chatenay Malabry.

49/24 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

a) Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 06.08.2024 (appendix 2) – Cllr Davis presented the minutes page by page, there were no questions.

03.09.24 (appendix 3) Cllr Carter said the minutes had been circulated and he presented the minutes page by page. Members made the following comments.

- **Parade Toilets** – Cllr Jinks asked if these facilities are permanently closed. Cllr Carter said significant damage had been done to the premises and there have also been problems with the company managing the building and the cleaning contract. Options were being explored in relation to the future of the facility.
- **Wilkos car park** – This matter was raised by Cllr Lowe. Cllr Carter said the Borough were doing as much as possible to assist with the problems caused by recent changes in policy for the car park.
- **Christmas Lighting Contract** – This was now resolved and he asked that members acknowledge the significant amount of work done by staff in the background to bring this matter to a conclusion
- **Bowring Planting** – Again another ongoing complex issue that takes up a lot of staff time and energy to reach a favourable solution.
- **Former Members Recognition Policy** – This document would hopefully be ready to present a proposal to the October Full Council meeting.
- **Staffing Matters** – Cllr Carter said the team had undergone significant personnel changes which were now starting to deliver benefits in that the finance reports were significantly improved. He hoped the new staff would attend the next meeting of the Town Council so that members could meet her. He also commented on a transformed team with impressive team spirit delivering a great service and supporting the council. Everyone should be congratulated for working together to turn a negative situation into a positive one.

b) Planning Committee minutes of 10.07.24, 31.07.24 and 21.08.24 (appendix 3) – Cllr Cook presented the minutes page by page. There were no questions from members.

c) Events and Communications Committee minutes of 05.09.24 – Cllr Barker presented the minutes page by page mentioning that the work done by staff over the summer months had been impressive and he commented on the good team spirit amongst staff and that some good weather had also helped. Referring to minute ref: 29/24 he echoed Cllr Carter in noting the great work being done by the Town Council team.

50/24 To Receive a report from the Dothill and Shawburch Local Nature Reserve meeting of 14.08.24 – Cllr Tomlinson said these were the best minutes the group had received. KT said the Friends were doing a fantastic job and highlighted in particular their work to improve access for disabled users. There were no questions from members.

51/24 To receive the reports of the Regeneration Board meetings of 18.07.24 & 22.08.24 – Cllr de Launey said the reports had been circulated and he was happy to take any questions. Cllr Carter thanked Cllr de Launey for his hard work on regeneration.

Cllr Carter made the following additional comments:

a) Church Street Project and he hoped the officers delivering the project would attend the next Full Council meeting to present to members. He said the projects could not

take place without creating disruption to existing businesses and highlighted the need to keep people fully informed.

- b) **Orbit Project** - Cllr Carter said the Borough is supporting the continued future development of the upper floors of the Orbit building
- c) **Buying and Restoring Historic Buildings in Walker Street** – He reported the Borough are undertaking the total refurbishment of the YMCA and former Planet of Beauty buildings.
- d) **Market** – Following the purchase of the property the Borough have been dealing with the poor condition of the building. They needed to ensure it meets fire regulations and install a new heating system. Cllr Jinks raised the issue of break-ins causing extensive damage, theft and distress to several stall holders. Cllr Carter said the Market is now a public asset and he was aware that work was underway to find the offenders and bring them to justice. CCTV investment would be increased, and the Borough would be doing as much as they can to prevent future crimes working closely with the Police.
- e) **CCTV investment in Wellington** – Cllr Carter highlighted the additional areas where there had been new installations of CCTV.
- f) **Anti - Social behaviour** – Cllr Carter reported work is ongoing to deal with anti-social behaviour including rough sleepers and again the police are involved. This is obviously a complex matter especially when individuals refuse help and accommodation
- g) **Roller Shutters** – Cllr Tomlinson said the Borough's installation outside the Market at B&M entrance were doing a great job and businesses in that area were grateful.
- h) **Market Street Car Park** – Cllr Tomlinson reported there were often near misses with vehicles turning right into the Market Street car park despite signs indicating to the contrary and the changed road layout. Cllr Carter said this would be looked at again to see if further solutions can be found but often you cannot engineer a problem out if people are determined to flout the rules.

Cllr Carter said the public should be reassured and confident that the Borough would do as much as they could to resolve any matters that need attention

52/24 Date of Next Full Council Meeting – was agreed as Tuesday 8th October 2024

Chairman8th October 2024