

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Usman Ahmed



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

Present:

Cllr R. Snell – Deputy Mayor	Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr J. Pierce	Cllr. P. Davis
Cllr M. Jobe	Cllr. G. Luter	Cllr. J. Latter	Cllr. G. Cook
Cllr E. Holding	Cllr. J. Gorse	Cllr. L. Carter	Cllr. S. de Launey

In attendance. Rev. Tim Carter, one member of the public and Karen Roper – CEO/Town Clerk.

74/24 Welcome from the Deputy Mayor – In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Snell welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Rev. Carter to lead prayers.

Rev. Carter thanked all those involved in organisation of the very successful Christmas Carol service on Sunday.

The Deputy Mayor thanked him for prayers and again warmly thanked all the people who had made the carol service such a great event.

75/24 Apologies – The Deputy Mayor called for apologies which were received and approved from Cllrs. Ahmed, Barker, Lowe, Mc Ginn, G. Davis, Woolley, Williams, Tomlinson and Day.

The following members voted in favour of approving those apologies, Cllrs. Pierce, Latter, Cook, Davis, Luter, Holding, Carter, Snell, Jinks, Gorse, Jobe and de Launey, there were no abstentions and no votes against.

76/24 Declarations of Interest – None were declared at this point in the meeting.

77/24 Receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting dated 19th November 2024 (appendix 1) – These were proposed by Cllr Carter as a true and accurate record, he was seconded by Cllr Davis.

The following members voted in favour of approving those minutes, Cllrs. Pierce, Latter, Cook, Davis, Luter, Holding, Carter, Snell, Jinks, Gorse, Jobe and de Launey, there were no abstentions and no votes against.

78/24 Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

79/24 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

a) **Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 03.12.24 (appendix 2)** – Cllr. Carter presented the minutes page by page. There were no questions from members.

b) **Planning Committee minutes of 13.11.24 (appendix 3)** – Cllr Cook presented the minutes page by page and there were no questions from members. The minutes for the 04.12.24 had not been circulated and would be presented at the January meeting.

80/24 Wellington Conservation Area Working Group meeting held 20th November 2024. Cllr Pierce presented the minutes. There were no questions from members.

81/24 To agree the budget for 2025/26 as recommended by Policy and Resources meeting on 3rd December 2024 –

Cllr de Launey presented the budget explaining that this budget for the first time relates back to our accounting software following a lot of hard work done by our RFO and he thanked her for her efforts. He highlighted additional NI costs and the 'in principle' decision of taking on the responsibility for the library as reasons for the increase that would see a Band 'D' household pay £111.87 per year which was still much cheaper than comparable town councils. Cllr de Launey moved the budget for approval as presented to council and asked if members had any questions.

Cllr Carter said the paper headed Budgeting and Council Tax indicates what services the town council are delivering for 46p per week on a Band 'D' property. He asked members to look at the list of services we provide which prove we are offering tremendous value for money. He highlighted support for the community centre in Arlestone, green spaces and civic events. There were additional new services that are being offered this year such as the Flood Relief Grant scheme and most likely the library service although this is still under negotiation. The vision is that the library will become a hub for residents offering advice, dealing with enquiries and complaints whilst transforming the space. He fully supported the increase and seconded Cllr de Launey's proposal.

The following members voted in favour of accepting the 2025/26 budget, Cllrs. Pierce, Latter, Cook, Davis, Luter, Holding, Carter, Snell, Gorse, Jobe and de Launey. There were no votes against, and Cllr Jinks abstained.

82/24 To agree the precept for 2025/26 as £801,747 as recommended by Policy and Resources meeting on 3rd December 2024 - Cllr de Launey proposed the precept for 2025/26 as £801,747, he was seconded by Cllr Carter. The following members voted in favour of accepting the 2025/26 budget, Cllrs. Pierce, Latter, Cook, Davis, Luter, Holding, Carter, Snell, Gorse, Jobe and de Launey. There were no votes against, and Cllr Jinks abstained.

83/24 Community Action Team (CAT) – The November 2024 report was circulated – Cllr Davis thanked the NEO's for their work and the new style reports were much more informative and easy to read. There were no comments from members.

84/24 To note the Minutes of the Regeneration Partnership Meeting dated 21st November 2024. The minutes for the meeting had been circulated – there were no comments from members. Cllr de Launey proposed to close the meeting for further discussion in accordance with the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Acts and was seconded by Cllr Carter.

85/24 Date of the next Full Council Meeting – The Deputy Mayor called for agreement of the next meeting date as Tuesday 14th January 2025, the following members voted in favour Cllrs. Jinks, Pierce, Latter, Cook, Davis, Luter, Holding, Carter, Snell, Gorse, Jobe and de Launey. There were no votes against, and no abstentions

86/24 The Deputy Mayor proposed to close the meeting and read out the following Statement. *In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (S1(2)) and in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting to discuss item 11 (a) on the agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts.*

The following members voted in favour of closing the meeting Cllrs. Jinks, Pierce, Latter, Cook, Davis, Luter, Holding, Carter, Snell, Gorse, Jobe and de Launey. There were no votes against, and no abstentions.

Chairman14th January 2025