

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Usman Ahmed



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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of **14th January 2025 starting at 7.00pm**

Present:

Cllr. R. Snell – Deputy Mayor	Cllr. L. Jinks	Cllr. J. Pierce	Cllr. P. Davis	Cllr. J. McGinn
Cllr. M. Jobe	Cllr. L. Woolley	Cllr. J. Latter	Cllr. G. Cook	
Cllr. S. Day	Cllr. J. Gorse	Cllr. L. Carter	Cllr. G. Davis	

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

87/24 Welcome from the Deputy Mayor – In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Snell wished everyone a Happy New Year and invited Rev. Carter to lead prayers.

Rev. Carter asked members to reflect on the past and look forward to the year ahead.

The Deputy Mayor thanked him for prayers and asked Sgt. Rigby to report.

89/24 Apologies – The Deputy Mayor called for apologies which were received and approved from Cllrs. Barker, Lowe, Holding, Williams, Luter, de Launey, Tomlinson and Ahmed. The following members voted in favour of approving those apologies, Cllrs. Snell, Jobe, Day, Jinks, Woolley, Gorse, Pierce, Latter, Carter, Davis, Cook, G. Davis and McGinn, There were no abstentions and no votes against.

88/24 Police – Sgt. Rigby gave the following report on the **Town Centre**.

- 1) All shops have been visited before Christmas and given crime prevention advice.
- 2) There were additional patrols of PCSO's, PC's and plain clothed Police.
- 3) 2 x well known prolific individuals had been arrested and detained
- 4) The result was a 50% reduction in reported crime over the festive period when compared to last year and he felt this was due to the additional police presence.
- 5) 1 x Criminal Behaviour Order was enforced
- 6) 1 x Criminal Protection Warrant had been issued to a professional beggar
- 7) 10 Community Protection Orders issued for anti-social behaviour to a group of young people in the town.
- 8) A warrant has been issued on a shop business on suspicion of supplying drugs.

Cllr Jinks thanked Sgt. Rigby for his report and for the increase in the number of officers in the town over the Christmas period making the town feel safer. She then said the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has blighted Wellington for decades and is again rising in the community. She asked Sgt. Rigby how the Police would be dealing with it.

Sgt. Rigby said he is very much aware of this and a team had been set up to work with our counterparts and partners it is hard when the matter is all over social media and the news and it has a huge impact in the community and police officers. He added this is an ongoing issue being monitored and taken extremely seriously.

Cllr Carter asked Sgt. Rigby to confirm if the matter is on the increase or not as he had not seen any statistics to support this.

Sgt. Rigby confirmed CSE is not on the increase and unfortunately it happens in all areas by all members of the community.

Cllr Jinks said she works in Criminal Justice systems and prosecutions are increasing, which would indicate that there is an increase in policing, which would perhaps indicate there is an increase in those matters being investigated.

Cllr Carter said it was important to get the facts on the record that Sgt Rigby confirmed CSE was not on the increase in Wellington.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Sgt. Rigby for attending this meeting and for the work of the Police.

Sgt. Rigby left the meeting.

90/24 Declarations of Interest – None were declared at this point in the meeting.

91/24 Receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting dated 10th December 2024 (appendix 1) – These were proposed by Cllr Davis as a true and accurate record, he was seconded by Cllr McGinn.

The following members voted in favour of approving those minutes as a true and accurate record, Cllrs. Snell, Jobe, Day, Jinks, Woolley, Gorse, Pierce, Latter, Carter, Davis, Cook, G. Davis and McGinn. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

92/24 Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

93/24 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

- a) **Policy and Resources Committee Meeting dated 07.01.25**– Cllr Davis presented the Minutes. Cllr Jinks said a number of residents had expressed disappointment at the Christmas lights in Shawbirch and asked that they are increase next year. Cllr Davis said there had been discussion at the meeting and it was agreed to review and discuss the lighting display with the new contractor going forward. He added that we have been notified of technical changes for next year that will need to be implemented.
- b) **Planning Committee Meeting dated 04.12.24** - Cllr McGinn presented the minutes page by page and explained all six applications had been unanimously passed. There were no questions from Members
- c) **Members to approve New Financial Standing Orders** - Cllr Davis proposed adoption of the New Financial Standing Orders he was seconded by Cllr Cook. The following members voted in favour of adoption of the New Financial Standing Orders, Cllrs. Snell, Jobe, Day, Jinks, Woolley, Gorse, Pierce, Latter, Carter, Davis, Cook, G. Davis and McGinn. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

94/24 Community Action Team (CAT) – The December 2024 report was circulated – the Clerk said she had forwarded an emailed invitation from the CAT team to join a ward walk which included Police and Telford officers involved in looking after their ward. She asked members to let her know suitable dates and times. There were no further comments from members.

95/24 Date of the next Full Council Meeting – The next meeting date was agreed as **Tuesday 11th February 2025**.

The Deputy Mayor gave his apologies for the February and March meetings.

96/24 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. He was seconded by Cllr Davis. The following members voted in favour Cllrs. Snell, Jobe, Day, Jinks, Woolley, Gorse, Pierce, Latter, Carter, Davis, Cook, G. Davis and McGinn. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

Chairman11th February 2025
The meeting closed at 7.25pm.