

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Paul Davis



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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in Civic Offices on Tuesday 10th October 2023 commencing at 7.00pm and livestreamed on Facebook.

Present:

Mayor Cllr. P. Davis	Cllr. G. Cook	Cllr. S. Day
Cllr. R. Snell	Cllr. G. Luter	Cllr. E. Holding
Cllr. L. Woolley	Cllr. J. Gorse	Cllr. S. deLauney
Cllr. C. Barker	Cllr. L. Carter	Cllr. J. McGinn
Cllr. J. Pierce	Cllr. A. Lowe	Cllr. J. Latter

In attendance. Rev Nick Brooke and Andrew Roberts.

7.00pm Public Open Session

Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and then asked Rev. Brooke to lead prayers.

Following prayers, the Mayor thanked Rev. Brooke and he left the meeting.

Full Council Agenda.

48/23 Mayor to call for apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Tomlinson, Jinks, Williams, Jobe and Hosken. The following members agreed to note and accept the apologies, Cllrs, Davis, Snell, Woolley, Barker, Pierce, Cook, Luter, Gorse, Carter, Lowe, Day, Holding, deLauney, McGinn and Latter. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

49/23 To receive declarations of interest – None were declared.

50/23 Receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council held on 12th September 2023
Cllr Luter proposed the minutes of 12th September 2023 as a true and accurate record. He was seconded by Cllr Carter and the following members voted in favour, Cllrs, Davis, Snell, Woolley, Barker, Pierce, Cook, Luter, Gorse, Carter, Lowe, Day, Holding, deLauney, McGinn and Latter. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

51/23 Matters Arising from the above Minutes – None as all were covered in the Committee reports.

52/23 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

- a) Policy and Resources Committee minutes and Grants Panel minutes of 03.10.23** – Cllr Carter presented the minutes and referred to the continued lobbying that had taken place to the Department for Transport to create a disabled access/crossing to the rail station. He highlighted that local ward members and Telford and Wrekin Council had lobbied for a long time and now Network Rail have confirmed a new link would be provided which was good news. Some final plans

were awaited and it was hoped that Network Rail would get on with the project as it was vital for this link to be completed.

- b) Planning Committee for the meeting held on 20.09.23** – Cllr Snell presented the minutes. There were no comments from members.
- c) Events and Communication Committee dated 19.09.23** – Cllr Barker presented the minutes. There were no comments from members.

53/23 To receive and accept the External Auditors report for 2022/23 – The report was duly noted and accepted. There were no comments from members.

54/23 To receive reports from the Community Action Team - The reports had been circulated with the agenda. There were no comments from members.

55/23 Regeneration Partnership Board – Cllr deLauney presented the minutes of the meeting that had been held on 21st September 2023. He highlighted the following matters:

Transport Hub – he referred to the ongoing discussions in relation to the proposed works at the Railway station – which when finally completed would result in the provision of a local transport hub. He remarked that these proposals had been a long period of time in their development and was a project that had only taken over 12 years of consistent lobbying.

YMCA building – he commented that the Board looked forward to the building being brought back into serviceable use – a combination of retail and residential purposes.

4/5 Market Square Redevelopment – it had been estimated originally that the proposed redevelopment works would cost in the region of £1.1m but the latest estimate had seen an increase to £3.5m.

The old Stead and Simpsons retail unit – it was reported that there had been some interest for the retail space – but that no further information was detailed at present.

The minutes had been circulated with the agenda. There were no further comments from members.

56/23 Motion re: Provision of Portable Defibrillators – Cllr Davis proposed and Cllr Cook had seconded the following motion:

“That this Council resolves to investigate a scheme that seeks to provide match/part funding for Wellington based groups to purchase portable defibrillators, specifically linked to sport and exercise activities across the Town”.

The meeting was reminded by Cllr Davis of the rationale for this proposal, which had followed on from a number of medical emergencies that had been experienced by local sporting groups and that he was proposing that a scheme should be investigated for the provision of portable defibrillators. Cllr Cook formally seconded the motion. Members fully welcomed the initiative and that possible investigation could be pursued in the utilisation of the current WTC minor grants scheme in order to provide the funding.

Following this discussion the motion was resolved unanimously. The following members voted in favour, Cllrs, Davis, Snell, Woolley, Barker, Pierce, Cook, Luter, Gorse, Carter, Lowe, Day, Holding, deLauney, McGinn and Latter. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

57/23 Motion re: PRH Hospital – Cllr Barker proposed and Cllr Gorse had seconded the following motion:

“That this Council endorses Telford & Wrekin Council’s continued opposition to plans to move Accident and Emergency and the Consultant-led Women and Children’s Unit from the Princess Royal Hospital and urges our MP to publicly oppose the move”

Cllr Barker in proposing the motion outlined the ongoing rationale for his proposal and referred to the recent interview given by the Prime Minister to BBC Radio Shropshire. By way of background, it had been mentioned that if the proposals proceeded Telford would become the largest Town in England without the provision of an Accident & Emergency Unit. Members were advised that Telford & Wrekin Council had proceeded with their campaign of opposition and had recently written to the Health Secretary, but no response had been received. The purpose of the motion was to seek an endorsement of the Borough Councils continuing campaign. Cllr Gorse in formally seconding the motion commented that she fully supported the motion but that it was appalling that the Borough Council was still having to fight to retain the Accident & Emergency and the Consultant-led Women and Children's Unit within the Princess Royal Hospital. She did express the need for clarity within the motion and proposed an amendment to the original motion as follows with the insertion of "the 24 hour" between the words "...opposition to plans to move (the 24 hour) ...Accident & Emergency etc." This amendment was seconded by Cllr Luter. Following a further discussion, the amendment was resolved unanimously with the following Members voting in favour, Cllrs, Davis, Snell, Woolley, Barker, Pierce, Cook, Luter, Gorse, Carter, Lowe, Day, Holding, deLauney, McGinn and Latter. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

Voting on the duly amended main motion, which was proposed by Cllr Snell and seconded by Cllr Carter then took place, which was resolved unanimously.

"That this Council endorses Telford & Wrekin Council's continued opposition to plans to move the 24 hour Accident and Emergency and the Consultant-led Women and Children's Unit from the Princess Royal Hospital and urges our MP to publicly oppose the move"

The following Members voted in favour, Cllrs, Davis, Snell, Woolley, Barker, Pierce, Cook, Luter, Gorse, Carter, Lowe, Day, Holding, deLauney, McGinn and Latter. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

Cllr Lowe enquired as to how we can ensure that the local MP is aware of the view of the Town Council. In response Cllr Davis as Mayor would request that the minutes were submitted to the local member of parliament.

58/23 To consider the proposal to twin with Bracciano in Italy –

Cllr Luter commented although having no objection about twinning with another town there were no indications as to cost implications and that we should at this stage we should focus on greater engagement with the current French town.

Cllr deLauney commented that notwithstanding the previous comments that the proposal should still be considered. Cllr Lowe agreed with Cllr deLauney. There was a general feeling that there was a need to consider any cost implications that might arise and by way of response Cllr deLauney confirmed that any cost implications would be considered as part of the overall consideration of the proposal. Following a further discussion, a vote was taken:

For: Cllrs Gorse, Woolley, McGinn, Latter, Pierce, Luter, Lowe and deLauney – 8
Against: Cllrs Day, Holding, Snell, Barker, Carter and Davis – 6. One Member abstained Cllr Cook. The motion to consider this matter further was accordingly carried.

59/23 The next Full Council Meeting was agreed as Tuesday 14th November 2023

Chairman.....14th November 2023
Meeting closed at 19.30hrs