

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 13th February 2024 commencing at 7.00pm and livestreamed on Facebook.

Present:

Mayor Cllr. P. Davis	Cllr. L. Carter	Cllr. L. Jinks	Cllr. E. Holding	Cllr J. McGinn
Cllr. R. Snell	Cllr. G. Luter	Cllr. S. Williams	Cllr. J. Latter	
Cllr. L. Woolley	Cllr. J. Gorse	Cllr A. Lowe	Cllr. J. Pierce	

In attendance. Rev Tim Carter, Rev. Ellie Wilkinson seven members of the public one member of the press and Karen Roper CEO.

7.00pm Public Open Session

Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and then asked Reverend Carter to lead prayers.

Rev. Carter introduced his colleague Rev. Ellie Wilkinson, he led prayers stating that Shrove Tuesday was the day before Ash Wednesday the beginning of lent and we reflect on things that are not right. He then asked everyone to pray for those who do not have enough to eat and those suffering from conflict throughout the world.

Cllr Davis thanked Rev. Carter and Rev. Wilkinson.

He then invited a representative from the Wrekin Star Judo club to address the meeting.

The Clerk had circulated information to all Councillors on behalf of the Wrekin Star Judo Club who wished to raise awareness of their offer and share their strategic plan. They explained the club had existed for more than 50 years and currently has a happy, thriving home in Market approach, but they are concerned that the redevelopment of the Market may be a potential threat to their base. The club is run by volunteers and they do not make a profit. Their members range in age from 6 to over 60's all are welcome from novices to Commonwealth and Olympic athletes. They hoped that by raising awareness of the club to town council members it would spark interest in what they do and what they have planned. They hoped that the town council would consider giving their support to help them remain in Wellington and continue to bring social benefits to people in Wellington. The Mayor thanked them for their presentation.

Full Council Agenda.

89/23 Mayor to call for apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Tomlinson, Hosken, Cook, Ahmed, Barker, Jobe, Day and de Launey.

The following members agreed accept the above apologies. Voting in favour were Cllrs, Davis, Snell, Woolley, Luter, Gorse, Carter, Jinks, Williams, Lowe, Pierce, Holding, Latter and McGinn. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

90/23 To receive declarations of interest – None were declared.

91/23 Receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council held on 9th January 2024.

Cllr Luter proposed the minutes as a true and accurate record and was seconded by Cllr Jinks. The following members voting in favour of accepting the minutes were Cllrs, Davis, Snell, Woolley, Luter, Gorse, Carter, Jinks, Williams, Lowe, Pierce, Holding, Latter and McGinn. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

92/23 Matters Arising from the above Minutes –

- **Orbit.** The Clerk had circulated a letter to all members from Mr P. Morris-Jones which thanked the town council for its help in securing the Orbit building. The process to buy back the Town Council share was now complete and all money and associated expenses had been refunded. The Mayor congratulated the Orbit for their amazing achievements and for being successful in obtaining Levelling Up Funding.

93/23 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to note the recommendations therein.

- a) Policy and Resources Committee Meeting dated 06.02.24** – Cllr Carter presented the minutes and made the following comments.
 - The Town Council's Banking arrangements had been moved to Unity Bank. A 2nd signatory on all payments is in the process of being set up and would offer greater security.
 - A Personnel Committee report would be provided at the March Full Council meeting. Cllr Lowe asked for confirmation of the Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Cllr Carter confirmed membership and that the Chairman is Cllr de Launey.
 - CPR training project was being delivered by the Mayor, Cllr Carter asked him to comment. Cllr Davis said at the beginning of the electoral year in May we decided on priorities we wanted to take forward and he was leading on this project as Mayor. The objective was to train around 100+ people in Wellington to be confident to use the defib units and perform CPR. He mentioned the incident where 2 brave young people had come to the aid of a lady in 'Iceland' and had come to her assistance. Cllr Jinks the young people were from the Charlton school and also present was an off duty nurse and together they saved the lady's life. Cllr Carter said this absolutely demonstrates the need for this project to train people to help others in the community. Cllr Luter commended the actions of the residents who helped the lady and the Mayor for all the efforts of Councillors in getting this very positive project going. Cllr Davis thanked the members who had provided Pride/ Ward funding to enable this to happen. He also thanked Councillors, who had helped to push things forward and said delivery of the project was planned to be from April onwards
- b) Planning Committee Meeting reports dated 03.01.24 & 24.01.24** – Cllr Snell presented the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January. The committee met again on 24th January where a response to the Local Plan Consultation had been put together with contributions from local organisations and from individual councillors serving on the Planning Committee. Cllr Gorse said she would like to thank the councillors who had put together the response on behalf of the Town and surrounding areas.
- c) Events and Communications dated 23.01.24-** Cllr Holding rose to present the minutes of the meeting. There were no comments.

94/23 To receive a report from the Dothill Conservation Group meeting held on 31.01.24-

Cllr Pierce rose to present the minutes of the meeting. There were no comments.

95/23. To receive and vote on the following motion proposed by Cllr Barker and seconded by Cllr Luter.

The Mayor asked Cllr Luter to present the following motion;

"Wellington Town Council acknowledges the fundamental importance of a fully-functioning local health economy to the wellbeing and economic security of Wellington residents.

Accordingly, this Council believes that any reduction or removal of Emergency Department services poses a significant risk to the health and wellbeing of the local population.

Furthermore, this Council believes that funds spent relocating services could be used to improve and increase them locally. The spend on the current project will almost certainly result in less accessible services and greater postcode discrimination for the people of Wellington.

Therefore, Wellington Town Council opposes any attempt to diminish or remove full Emergency Department services from the Princess Royal Hospital and urges relevant Healthcare Authorities Government Officials and Stakeholders to maintain and improve comprehensive Emergency Department services at the Princess Royal Hospital "

Cllr Snell seconded the motion.

Cllr Day was not able to attend this evening but he had put together the following statement which was read by the Mayor.

Current plans to change the healthcare provision within our County appear to be based on the model of finding a penny whilst losing a pound as NHS leaders had already outlined in the local media the demand on emergency services departments increased by 1,364 more attendances and increase of more than 11% since 2018. These plans take no account of the house building within the County that will inevitably see that demand increase again potentially at a significantly higher rate. This lack of foresight will not resolve the increasing numbers increased by 100,000% since 2018 of the trolley waits which patients experience now. This is a plan that will deliver centralised A&E services in a department that is too small to overcome the issues which is causing harm to patients today As a paramedic based in Shropshire I have regularly witnessed queues of ambulances often in double figures outside both emergency departments and current plans to provide an A&E department barely bigger than the original A&E footprint commissioned in the mid 1970s will again fail to overcome the issues and the horrendous amounts of time patients spend waiting in ambulances outside A&E causing harm to those patients and significant delay in ambulance responses to patients in the community. This is a plan that will fail to improve healthcare services and accessibility to the people we serve and it is a plan that should be opposed at every opportunity I support this motion and encourage a call stakeholders to get back around the table to design a plan for local health services that is truly fit for our future before it is too late,

Cllr Simon Day

Cllr Gorse said she supports this motion it is a terrible thing that we are having to put up with in Shropshire and this headline last weekend in the Journal said she had to keep reading the figures that waiting times up by 100,000% to understand it. The details in the

article was that in 2018 the number of people waiting more than 12 hours in A&E was 1 in Shropshire. In 2023 that number had risen to 1068 which makes the increase of 100,000% it is unbelievable for the patients for the relatives and for us as residents and sad to say that the 24 hour A&E services at the PRH is to close. Will it close for good? will it close for 5 hours? 10 hours? 12 hours? we don't know it doesn't make sense for us as residents. How will that help sick helpless residents who are already feeling fraught and who have need of a hospital? last Sunday it was reported there were 17 ambulances lined up outside A&E at PRH and that additional ambulances had to be diverted to Shrewsbury. That was just one day out of 365. These figures tell us the PRH is busier with far more patients than ever before and we cannot allow this A&E service at the PRH to be removed or diminished we need to keep the 24 hour A&E service open at the PRH open here and we want Shrewsbury to be kept open as well. There are too many people in the county for one 24hr A&E to cope.

This was put to the vote all were in favour. The following members voting in favour were Cllrs, Davis, Snell, Woolley, Luter, Gorse, Carter, Jinks, Williams, Lowe, Pierce, Holding, Latter and McGinn. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

96/23 The next Regeneration Board meeting date was noted as 15th February 2024

97/23 The next full council meeting date was agreed to 12th March 2024

Chairman.....12th March 2024