

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Dorothy Roberts



Town Clerk
KAREN ROPER
B.A (HONS) DMS
Civic Offices, Larkin Way
Tan Bank, Wellington
Telford TF1 1LX
Tel: 01952 567697
wellingtontowncouncil@telford.gov.uk
www.wellington-shropshire.gov.uk

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in Civic Offices on Tuesday 08th November 2022 commencing at 7.00pm and livestreamed on Facebook.

Present:

Mayor Cllr D. Roberts	Cllr. G. Cook	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr U. Ahmed
Cllr P. Fairclough	Cllr J. Pierce	Cllr J. Latter	Cllr. C. Barker
Cllr L. Carter	Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr S. de Launey	Cllr. P. Davis
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE	Cllr S. Hall	Cllr. A. McClements	
Cllr. G. Luter	Cllr. C. Brittain	Cllr A. Lowe	

Public Open Session

53/22 Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and called upon Rev. Tim Carter to lead prayers.

Rev. Carter reminded members that the service for Ross Vickers will be held tomorrow at 3pm, All Saints Church. He asked members to pray for the community struggling with the rising cost of living crisis, for those in areas of conflict, particularly the Ukraine, and for the leaders at the COP summit.

54/22 – Address to Council – The Mayor invited Cllr de Launey to address the meeting. Cllr de Launey said on 31st October the Group Leaders or their representatives met and agreed he would make the following statement on matters that arose at the last meeting.

‘Cllr Lowe was requested to apologise because a complaint had been made that he had omitted to declare his non pecuniary interest as Director of the Halfway House in March 2022. Because of this he was given three sanctions;

1. To apologise on Facebook
2. Apologise to full council so that other members would be more aware / are reminded to declare their interests
3. To undertake training in the Code of Conduct

No other complaints had been made and he urged members to acquaint themselves with the Town Council Complaints procedure. If any member wishes to make a further complaint it needs to be done through that document. Our meeting on 11th October passed a motion which led to the resignation of the Deputy Mayor. These actions were contrary to Standing Order reference 9.6, which requires a motion to be notified to the Clerk giving at least 10 days’ notice for it to be placed on the agenda for discussion. The action taken at last months’ meeting is therefore ineffectual. Finally we have a Member/Officer protocol which describes the expected behaviour between members and officers. If there are any problems, errors or omissions we do not wait to raise it at a full council we go straight to the Clerk for resolution’. He then asked Cllr Carter to comment.

Cllr Carter said he had reflected on the events of the last meeting and had discussed the situation with the Monitoring Officer. Some of the comments he made came across as criticism of the Clerk and this was not his intention. He had apologised to her in private and was happy to do so again this evening in public. He hoped the positive working relationship they had developed would not be affected by this incident.

The Clerk thanked him for his apology.

- 55/22 Receive and approve apologies** – Apologies had been received from Cllrs Hosken, Tomlinson and Alvey for illness. The following members agreed to note and accept the apologies. Cllrs; Barker, Lowe, Fairclough, Carter, Morris-Jones MBE, Pierce, Jinks, Hall, Gorse, Latter, de Launey, McClements, Ahmed Roberts, Luter, Brittain, Cook and Davis. There were no abstentions and no votes against.
- 56/22 Receive Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Morris-Jones MBE in relation to the Orbit and Cllr Lowe in relation to his non pecuniary Directorship of the Half Way House.
- 57/22 Receive and approve the final minutes of the Full Council held on 11th October 2022** Cllr de Launey asked the Clerk to forward an explanation in relation to minute ref: 48/22 stating the actions that were contrary to Standing or 9.6. The Clerk agreed.
- 58/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes** – None as all are covered in the committee reports
- 59/22 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.**

a) Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 01.11.22, and confidential minutes of 01.11.22 – Cllr de Launey highlighted the following matters;

- **Ref 75/22 Speed Indicator Devices** – 2 x units had been ordered with the additional capability of remote download of data to save staff time. The existing units are not capable of being modified to offer this service so will continue to be used as a reminder to motorists about their speed.
- **Ref 76/22 Budget Timetable** – A draft budget will be presented to the next P&R meeting on 6th December and to Full Council on 13th December.
- **Confidential Minutes** – Cllr de Launey said if members wish to discuss the matters on these minutes he would do so but it needs to be in private session.

There were no questions from members.

- a) Planning Committee meetings held on 28.09.22 and 19.10.22**– Cllr Luter presented the minutes, there were no further questions
- b) Events and Communications Committee 27.09.22 and 25.10.22** – Cllr Davis presented the minutes of 27.09.22, there were no further comments. Minutes of 25.10.22 were presented by Cllr Hall, there were no further questions.

60/22 Motion to Council Proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded Cllr McClements.

"In light of the growing cost of living crisis and in order to provide support to Wellington residents this Council commits to freezing the Town Council Tax precept for 2023/24.

This Council also applauds Telford & Wrekin Councils decision taken last year, to freeze the General Council Tax for year 2022/23 and 2023/24."

Cllr Carter moved the motion stating the cost of living increases were impacting on residents across the town with the latest supermarket food increases reported at 14% on top of higher mortgages, fuel and energy costs. Telford and Wrekin Borough are facing cuts in their funding and more demand for their support services such as mental health services, warm spaces and food banks. There is a threat to the pensioners triple lock pension promise and

workers are striking for pay increases that match inflation. This situation is unprecedented. Telford and Wrekin froze Council tax last year and we should do the same for this year. He hoped the motion has cross party support and that other organisations such as the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire service will do the same. He then read out the motion as written on the agenda.

Cllr Lowe thanked Cllr Carter for laying out the facts behind this motion.

Cllr McClements had seconded the motion and commented that the rising cost of fuel, food and mortgages was having a massive impact on hard working families who were needing to access food parcels and preloved uniforms for their children, it was heart breaking. She added that Arlestone Community Centre were providing a warm space area and felt the Town Council had a duty of care to freeze the Council tax demand for this year following the example of Telford and Wrekin Borough who had frozen the charge for both 22/23 and 23/24.

Cllr de Launey said the Lib Dems fully support the motion and reminded members that he gave a commitment that there would not be an increase in the 2023/24 budget at the time of the 22/23 budget statement last year.

Cllr Morris-Jones MBE also reminded members he moved no increase in the budget last year and he was voted down. He was now pleased members' had seen sense and welcomed the proposal.

The Mayor put the motion to the vote and the following members voted in favour Cllrs; Barker, Lowe, Fairclough, Carter, Morris-Jones MBE, Pierce, Jinks, Hall, Gorse, Latter, de Launey, McClements, Ahmed, Roberts, Luter, Brittain, Cook and Davis. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

61/22 Climate Change Emergency Working Group meetings of 06.10.22 and 03.11.22- Cllr Lowe presented the minutes. There were no questions.

62/22 Community Action Team Meeting 20.10.22 – The Clerk said the report had been circulated and invited members to inform her of any issues they would like her to raise at the meeting next week.

63/22 Regeneration Board Report 19.10.22. – Cllr de Launey said the report had been circulated and he was happy to take any questions. Cllr Jinks asked about the future plans for the Clifton. Cllr de Launey said the mobile telephone masts had been relocated so demolition work could begin.

64/22 Interim Review of Polling Places – The Clerk had circulated the document and reminded members of the closing date of 28th November for this consultation. She agreed to recirculate the consultation.

65/22 Date of Next Meeting – was agreed as Tuesday 13th December 2022

The Mayor reminded members of the following upcoming event dates.

9th November 3pm All Saints Church Ross Vickers memorial

11th November 10.45 am Armistice event on Market Square

13th November 10.25 am Remembrance Parade Nailors Row Car Park

19th November 4.45 pm Christmas Lights switch on

11th December 4.00 pm Civic Carol Service All Saints Church

Chairman.....13th December 2022