

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Dorothy Roberts



Town Clerk
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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in Civic Offices on Tuesday 10th January 2023 commencing at 7.05pm and livestreamed on Facebook.

Present:

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

In attendance. Rev Tim Carter and Karen Roper.

7.00pm Public Open Session

Welcome – The Mayor wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then asked Rev. Carter to lead prayers.

Rev. Carter wished everyone a very Happy New Year and asked members to pray for NHS staff under pressure. For those waiting for beds and treatment and for the Councillors currently suffering with ill health.

7.05pm Full Council Agenda.

87/22 Mayor to receive and approve apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllrs Hosken, Brittain, Hall, Tomlinson and Alvey for illness. Cllr Ahmed was absent for family reasons, Cllr Lowe for other commitments and Cllr Latter for work commitments.

The following members agreed to note and accept the apologies. Cllrs; Roberts, Fairclough, Morris- Jones MBE, Barker, Cook, Jinks, Luter, Gorse, Carter, de Launey, McClements Pierce and Davis. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

88/22 Receive Declarations of Interest –. There were no declaration of interests.

89/22 Receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council held on 13th December 2022 - Cllr Jinks proposed the minutes of 13th December 2022 as a true and accurate record. She was seconded by Cllr. Luter and the following members voted in favour Cllrs; Roberts, Fairclough, Morris- Jones MBE, Barker, Cook, Jinks, Luter, Gorse, Carter, de Launey, McClements Pierce and Davis. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

90/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes – None as all were covered in the committee reports

91/22 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

a) Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 03.01.23, and Confidential minutes of 03.01.23 – Cllr de Launey highlighted the following matters;

- **Orbit** - Cllr de Launey (SDL) said the process is complete but the lawyers need to process the paperwork.
- **Bowring** – SDL said negotiations are underway to agree on a new lease for the Café.
- **George Evans' Memorial** – SDL reported arrangements are being made to hold a ceremony to dedicate the garden and rock in the springtime when the garden looks good.
- **Market Street Works** – Cllr de Launey said the first phase of Market Street work was complete and the next phase, to include road lining/ litter bins/ lights and hanging basket posts would start this week.

Wilkinson's Car Park - Members said traders were complaining about the sudden closure of the Wilkinson's car park. SDL said unfortunately this is privately owned and we have no update. We are aware the Borough is trying to communicate with the car park owners.

Station Approach – Cllr Jinks said people had reported that turning left from Station Road was difficult. SDL said this was intentional to dissuade people from driving down Market Street as much as possible.

Confidential Minutes of 03.01.23 - Cllr de Launey said he would be pleased to answer any questions. Cllr Barker asked for an explanation of what 'ESAG' was. The Clerk explained it was a panel of experts who considered health and safety paperwork for events and made suggestions for improvements.

b) Planning Committee meetings held on 21.12.22 – Cllr Luter presented the minutes. He reported the committee had approached enforcement officers regarding the old Clifton cinema which was suffering from dilapidation, weeds and graffiti giving a poor impression as a gateway to the town centre. Cllr Fairclough said the building is full of asbestos which needs to be professionally dealt with and would be an expensive task.

Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said this is another building that has been bought by people/organisations and then left to rot away suggesting compulsory purchase as a solution. He said it is a real shame this is happening when so much effort is being made to regenerate the town by both the Borough and Town Councils.

Cllr Carter said that compulsory purchase is an expensive and lengthy process which in his view is not a good use of tax payers' money. He agreed that private landowners / property owners were creating problems by not maintaining their buildings and local traders were suffering as their business looks good at the ground level but above the buildings were crumbling due to lack of investment. This was also true of the project notified 4 years ago to improve the access to the rail platforms which was still not delivered additionally not a penny had been received from the promised Towns Fund and there was no news about the Levelling up Funding from Government. We need to join together to try and get some action in the town from these outside organisations especially as locally we are working hard to improve things with projects such as Market Street and resurfacing of the Leisure Centre car park.

92/22 To agree the Budget for 2023/24 following recommendation from the Policy & Resources committee meeting dated 3rd January 2024 – Cllr de Launey explained he had not been notified of any amendments therefore he proposed acceptance of the 2023/24 budget in line with the recommendation from P&R Committee. He was seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE and the following members voted in favour, Cllrs; Roberts, Fairclough, Morris- Jones MBE, Barker, Cook, Jinks, Luter, Gorse, Carter, de Launey, McClements Pierce and Davis. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

93/22 To agree the Precept for 2023/24 as £530,461 following the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting dated 3rd January 2023 - Cllr de Launey moved the precept for 2023/24 as £530,461, he was seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE. The following members voted in favour, Cllrs; Roberts, Fairclough, Morris- Jones MBE, Barker, Cook, Jinks, Luter, Gorse, Carter, de Launey, McClements Pierce and Davis. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

Cllrs congratulated Cllr de Launey for all the work he had put into this successful budget which allowed the Council to continue to deliver services and did not increase the precept amount to the taxpayer.

94/22. To receive a report from the Community Action Team – The Town Clerk had circulated written reports adding there were some issues with the suggested additional security light at Market Approach and the recommended new CCTV camera in Market Square which still need to be resolved.

Cllr Gorse congratulated the Clerk and the CAT team for the work they were doing.

Cllr Jinks pointed out a typo in the written report the company is 'Quick Fix' not Quick Fit.

Cllr Morris – Jones said the disabled spaces on the Belmont car park had not yet been moved from outside of the night club to outside of the Belmont Hall where they are most needed. The Clerk said there was no update on this but she would chase for action again.

The Clerk said additionally there was no update on the Cyclist Dismount signs which were being chased monthly. Members said that the bikes and electric scooters were a big problem in the pedestrianised areas.

95/22 To agree the date of the next Full Council Meeting as 14th February 2023

Chairman.....14th February 2023