

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 11th April 2023
commencing at 7.00pm and livestreamed on Facebook.**

Present:

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

In attendance. T/Sgt. Peter Rigby of the North Telford Safer Neighbourhood Team and Karen Roper – Town Clerk.

7.00pm Public Open Session

Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone and invited T/Sgt Rigby to address the meeting.

T/Sgt Rigby gave apologies on behalf of Inspector Saunders who been unavoidably called away to an urgent incident.

He explained he was proud to be the officer based in Arleston and College wards and although he could not control the number of Officers employed by the force he could influence how Neighbourhoods are policed. Since Covid, policing teams had responded to changing requirements for both day and night service needs. PC's and PCSO's had returned to provide a presence in the Town Centre which had received great feedback from the public. Sessions held at the Interfaith Centre had proved really useful and feedback is that people like to talk to the Police face to face. WhatsApp groups are being used to communicate with businesses and share information on known shoplifters. T/Sgt Rigby said his work with the CAT Team had resulted in significant improvements on matters like the CCTV systems and working closely with Sally Themans and Love Wellington business group had also improved communications dramatically. He highlighted recent successes and in particular his team had closed down a large cannabis factory. He acknowledged there was still work to be done regarding drugs and criminal gangs but he was personally very positive about the way the dedicated police team in Wellington were functioning at the moment.

Members asked the following questions;

- **Cllr Jinks** – reported there were opportunist criminals ransacking cars in Dothill – T/Sgt Rigby said he was aware of the problem and these issues are generally down to just one or two perpetrators. He said officers were actively looking for them.
- **Cllr McClements** – thanked T/Sgt Rigby for his community work and for attending the Arleston / College residents meeting. She said that people wanted to know what is going to happen to Wellington's Police Station, he responded by saying in his view a station is very much needed in Wellington but this matter sits with the PCC so he could not comment

further.

- **Cllr Tomlinson** – highlighted the problems of inconsiderate and dangerous parking preventing access for emergency vehicles around the schools. When patrols are in attendance, people then act responsibly. T/Sgt Rigby said that parking powers were now shared with the Borough and he felt it would be helpful to look at the way parking enforcement is structured going forward. Cllr Tomlinson said she was disappointed that there is only 1 x PCSO for Dothill, Shawbirch, Admaston and Bratton areas and previously there had been two. T/Sgt Rigby said an appointment was in the process of being made.

There being no further questions the Mayor and Councillors all thanked T/Sgt Rigby for attending this evening.

Main Agenda.

119/22 Mayor to receive and approve apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllrs Brittain, and Alvey for illness and Cllr Fairclough for family commitments. The following members agreed to note and accept the apologies. Cllrs. Roberts, de Launey, Morris-Jones MBE, Barker, Latter, Cook, Luter, Jinks, Ahmed, Davis, Gorse, Carter, Hosken, McClements, Tomlinson, Pierce, Lowe and Hall. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

120/22 Receive Declarations of Interest – A declaration of interest was received from Cllr Morris-Jones MBE and Cllr de Launey in relation to the Orbit Cinema, Wellington The following members agreed to note and accept the declarations of interests. Cllrs. Roberts, Barker, Latter, Cook, Luter, Jinks, Ahmed, Davis, Gorse, Carter, Hosken, McClements, Tomlinson, Pierce, Lowe and Hall. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

121/22 Receive and approve the minutes of the Full Council held on 14th March 2023 – Cllr Hosken proposed the minutes of 14th March 2023 as a true and accurate record. He was seconded by Cllr Jinks and the following members voted in favour, Cllrs. Roberts, de Launey, Morris- Jones MBE, Barker, Latter, Cook, Luter, Jinks, Ahmed, Davis, Gorse, Carter, Hosken, McClements, Tomlinson, Pierce, Lowe and Hall. There were no abstentions and no votes against.

122/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes – None as all were covered in the Committee reports.

123/22 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

a) Policy and Resources committee minutes and confidential minutes of 07.03.23 – Cllr de Launey presented the minutes highlighting the following matters.

- The Parade Toilets were now open following repairs.
- George Evans Memorial Dedication ceremony would take place prior to the Annual Assembly Meeting on 25th April at 5.30pm
- The Market Street car park was now patched up and open. Cllr de Launey thanked the Borough Council for all their work on this matter.
- The Grants Panel report had been tabled this evening and all had been awarded although further information had been requested relating to one application.
- The placement of the Coronation Plaque had been referred to Full Council.

Cllr Tomlinson asked members to switch off their phones.

b) Planning Committee meeting held on 29.03.23 – Cllr Luter presented the minutes and informed members that planning meetings were now suspended until after the elections. There were no comments from members.

c) Events and Communications Committee – the March meeting was reported as being inquorate.

124/22 To receive the minutes of the Regeneration Board dated 15.03.23 – The Chairman of the Regeneration Board, Cllr de Launey presented the minutes highlighting the following matters.

- He confirmed the Towns Fund award was intended to purchase the YMCA building and convert the upper floors to residential.
- No 2 Walker Street (Planet of Beauty building) had a shop jacket fitted which advertised possible uses for the premises.
- No 4 Market Square – there was no progress to report on this.
- The news of the levelling up funding was gratefully received, the application was to purchase the Market, do some street works and develop the Orbit building.

The Chairman commented this was the biggest jump for Wellington's future prospects in a long time and he was absolutely delighted. Cllr Lowe asked about match funding required from the Borough Council. The Chairman confirmed the amount of £900,000 was being contributed by the Borough and said massive thanks were due to the Borough team for providing this and for their extensive efforts in applying to the Government for the funding.

125/22 To receive a report from the Community Action Team – The Clerk confirmed that written reports of the CAT for March and April 2023 had been circulated and asked members to forward any issues so that they could be raised at the next meeting.

Members raised the following concerns;

- Cllr Jinks asked if there was a TRO in place to allow parking enforcement in Bagley Road shops, Orbit and Marton Drive. The Clerk said she would find out.
- Cllr Hosken asked that a problem happening at the Station today is investigated as youths were spitting onto the platform and people were upset and had to walk through the mess.
- Rough Sleepers were reported in the town centre.
- Cllr Tomlinson said she had now been promised a refurbished bus shelter in Shawbirch and thanked the Clerk for her efforts.

126/22 To confirm the installation site of the Coronation Plaque. - Members suggested the Cllr Luter suggested the Town / Borough Council offices, Cllr Hosken suggested the old 'Subway Building', Cllr Barker proposed the Lychgate and Cllr de Launey suggested the Orbit.

Cllr Luter's suggestion was seconded by Cllr Ahmed.

Cllr Barker's suggestion of the Lychgate was seconded by Cllr Gorse.

Cllr de Launey's suggestion of the Orbit was seconded by Cllr Jinks

Cllr Luter's suggestion of the Town Council / Borough Council offices was lost when put to the vote.

Cllr Barker's proposal of the Lychgate and Cllr de Launey's proposal of the Orbit was voted upon resulting in 9 in favour of the Lychgate and 8 in favour of the Orbit.

The Lychgate was therefore the agreed location for the site of the Coronation plaque.

Cllr Tomlinson expressed her disappointment.

127/22 Motion to Wellington Town Council - Proposed by Cllr Angela McClements and Seconded by Cllr Giles Luter

This Council is very disappointed to hear that the Government has given the green light for the New Works Solar Farm on the boundary of Wellington to go ahead. This decision was made by a junior Minister in Whitehall, with no knowledge of the site and how valued it is by our communities. This goes against the overwhelming views of our local communities, Telford and Wrekin Planning Officers, Telford and Wrekin Plans Board and the government's own planning inspector. We therefore support a call by Telford and Wrekin Council to invite Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Housing and Communities to the New Works site so that he can see for himself our beautiful and precious green area and urge him to overturn the decision taken by his junior minister on his behalf.

Cllr McClements spoke to the motion.

Cllr Hosken asked for the Motion to read and seconded in the normal way according to the rules and regulations.

Cllr Gorse proposed that Cllr McClements reads the motion.

Cllr McClements read the motion to the meeting

Cllr Luter formally seconded the motion

7.45 pm Cllr Ahmed left the meeting

Cllr Lowe put his view explaining he opposed the view of the Wellington Planning Committee and the T&W Planning Committee but he respects their decision. However he believes in sustainable green energy and in his view we need more solar power and New Works would power 8,600 homes. He invited members to join him at the peaceful demonstration on Parliament Square on 21st April. He therefore opposed the motion and supports the decision of H.M. Government to allow the New Works Solar Farm application to proceed.

The Mayor said the comments made by Cllr Lowe were not really relevant as we are not debating the changing decision as this has already been made against the application.

Cllr Luter asked for the matter to be put to the vote.

The Mayor called for a vote resulting in 15 votes for the motion Cllr Lowe against and Cllr Tomlinson abstained.

The motion was carried.

128/22 To agree the date of the next Full Council Meeting & AGM as Tuesday 16th May 2023

Members were reminded that the date of the George Evans dedication service Would be 25th April 2023 at 5.30 pm followed by the Annual Town Assembly Meeting at 6.00pm.

Chairman.....16th May 2023