

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Dorothy Roberts



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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in Civic Offices on Tuesday 12th July 2022 commencing at 7.00pm and livestreamed on Facebook.

Present:

Mayor- Cllr D. Roberts	Cllr. G. Cook	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr M. Hosken
Cllr S. Hall	Cllr A. Lowe	Cllr J. Latter	Cllr. C. Barker
Cllr L. Carter (arriving at 7.45pm)	Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr S. de Launey	Cllr. J. Alvey
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE	Cllr J. Pierce	Cllr G. Luter	Cllr P. Fairclough
Cllr. A. McClements			

In attendance: Karen Roper, Nick Brooke and Superintendent James Dunn.

Public Open Session – Cllr Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting and said the Garden Party attended by the High Sherriff and Deputy Lieutenant of Shropshire at Sunnycroft was a great success. She thanked Town Council Staff and Sally Themans for their hard work making this such a great event and informed members that the Civic service would be held on 11th September, she then called upon Nick Brooke to lead prayers.

Nick Brooke said prayers and left the meeting at 7.05pm

26/22 - To Receive and Approve Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ahmed and Tomlinson – for family matters, Cllrs Brittain and Davis for illness. Members agreed to note and accept the apologies. Cllr Alvey requested the minutes of the meeting dated 12th July 2022 be amended to include his name as it was missed off the list of members present.

27/22 – To Receive Declarations of Interest – Cllr Morris-Jones MBE declared his interest in the Orbit project.

28/22 - Superintendent James Dunn (JD) – Superintendent Dunn had been invited to this meeting together with John Champion the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to discuss the following motion proposed by Cllr. M. Hosken and seconded by Cllr S. Hall.

“This Council is concerned by the incidents occurring in Wellington relating to anti-social and criminal behaviour. The Telford Journal (16.06.2022) reports that the Wellington Police Station would be sold and replaced with a fit for purpose alternative is an alarming proposal requiring the Chief Superintendent and Police Commissioner to respond as a matter of urgency to Wellington Town Council”.

Superintendent Dunn introduced himself and said he started his career in the Police service based in Wellington in 1996 and he was pleased to be invited to this meeting. Cllr Gorse expressed her concern at the thought of Wellington Police Station moving from the town centre and she was seeking reassurance that the Police will still be very visible in Wellington. She was also under the

impression from previous meetings that Wellington would have extra Police Officers and asked how many additional officers had been appointed. JD said there were different elements to the question and he could give answers on the operational side but was not able to answer financial questions on behalf of the PCC. He had been asked for his opinion via the consultation and had already responded saying that Wellington needs to retain a policing footprint although he was unable to say what would look like. Cllr Roberts asked that the consultation is sent to members and made available on the Town Council and Love Wellington websites. Cllr. McClements said the consultation is very difficult to find online and asked that the link be circulated to members and put online.

Cllr Alvey welcomed JD and said that the profile of Police work needs to be raised so that people are more aware of what they do and have done. JD agreed the team is not good at giving notification of opportunities to meet and approach officers. He said the Police team does have the 'Neighbourhood Matters newsletter' to let people know what is happening and what has been done. He asked if members were aware of the Policing Charter and the three main priorities for Wellington

- Anti-social behaviour
- Organised criminal groups
- Anti- social driving

He would like to focus on preventative policing / policing charter and neighbourhood matters. He felt the Policing team should try to listen more and gave his commitment to communicating and working with elected members.

Cllr Lowe made the following points

- Street pastors use the Police Station as a base – they will need a central operational place within any new accommodation. JD said the Street Pastors store their vehicle at Wellington and receive funding from the Police. He would be looking to have their base remain with the Police in Wellington.
- The anti-social behaviour of cyclists and scooters in pedestrianised areas has been rumbling on for the past 2-3 years but we still need signage and enforcement. JD said he was aware of the loss of the PCC funding for signage and would hope it goes forward for this year. Complaints about anti-social behaviour have been received generally following the end of the school day and his PCSO's have been working directly with the schools, using social media and having a highly visible presence to deter any further unwanted activity.

Cllr Jinks asked the following questions

- Venue – what's the recommendation
- Opening Hours
- Fit for Purpose
- Would a custody cell be retained in Wellington

JD said it was premature to make any comments but the present premises built in the 1950's are not fit for purpose and are generally used for training and to hold meetings. As for opening hours, footfall has dropped, social media and A boards are used to let people know when there are Police Officers in the Station. There is a cost to the service so going forward he could not promise a fully staffed desk and this also applies to operating a custody cell in Wellington. Cllr Jinks said footfall has dropped because there is no one to take / deal with enquiries.

Cllr McClements said it was really disappointing that the Police and Crime Commissioner was unable to make this meeting and had not sent his apologies. She thanked JD for attending this evening and said the local policing team do a fantastic job. We do want investment in policing in Wellington and where are those additional Bobbies on the ground that have been promised. John Champion is in charge of the estates and we need a fit for purpose estate and a fit for purpose police presence to deal with anti-social behaviour. She asked that we express how disappointed the Council is that the PCC was unable to attend this evening.

Cllr Luter said the same questions were asked years ago and we are frustrated that we seem to back to square one.

Cllr Alvey also expressed his disappointment and proposed a letter goes from this Council to the PCC as it was not fair for JD to try to answer these questions on behalf of the PCC tonight.

Cllr Hosken proposed an amendment stating that the Clerk had invited Mr Campion so she should, as Chief Executive Officer, ask for a reply to her invitation. He was seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE. The Following members voted in favour Cllrs Jinks, Hall, Morris-Jones, Hosken, Barker, Pierce, Latter, Fairclough, Lowe and de Launey. There were no votes against and no abstentions therefore the motion which was carried.

Cllr Alvey withdrew his proposal.

Cllr Hosken said many years ago he was a special constable in Wellington and at that time 168 people worked from the present police station including a dog unit. He had forwarded the original motion because he felt the rural areas had now been forgotten but we have a great many problems. He made suggestions on how the current building could be repurposed and commented he was against the idea of combining fire and police stations. He firmly believed that Wellington Station should be retained as the central location is most convenient being directly on the road network and having its own car park.

Cllr Roberts asked that the public consultation is uploaded to the social media and website accounts to allow comments together with 'Neighbourhood Matters'. Cllr McClements said the consultation is really difficult to find on the PCC website. The Clerk would circulate the consultation.

Cllr Alvey said not much is heard about car crime these days. JD said the pattern has changed to the theft of catalytic converters and criminals overcoming keyless entry systems. He could furnish members' with specific crime statistics if required.

Members requested a vote on the following original motion read by Cllr Hosken and seconded by Cllr Hall.

The vote was taken and members were unanimously in agreement with the motion. The Clerk was tasked to contact the PCC and inform him of the support for the motion.

Chief Superintendent James Dunn was thanked for attending this meeting by the Mayor on behalf of the Council and he left at 7.45pm.

Cllr L. Carter joined the meeting at 7.45pm.

29/22 To Receive and Approve the minutes of the Full Council held on 14th June 2022

Following the amendment to add Cllr Alvey to the members' present list it was proposed by Cllr Hosken that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record. He was seconded by Cllr Luter and the following members voted in favour S. Hall, P. Morris-Jones MBE, D. Roberts, L. Jinks, J. Pierce, A. Lowe, J. Gorse, J. Latter, G. Cook, S. de Launey, G. Luter, L. Carter, M. Hosken, J. Alvey, A. McClements, P. Fairclough and C. Barker. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

30/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes - None as all are covered in the Committee Reports

31/22 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

- a) **Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 05.07.22** – Cllr de Launey gave the following report.
- **End of Year Accounts** – Final accounts for the year 2021/22 were now on the noticeboards for public consultation.
 - **Borrowing Approval** - The application was progressing through the official stages and it was hoped to have a positive outcome soon.
 - **Town Band** – The contract had been accepted and would continue to support the band by payments of £4k per year for the next 5 years.
 - **Discussion on Members Allowances** – All members had voted against any increase in Councillors allowances at this time.
- b) **Planning Committee 15.06.22**– Cllr Luter presented the minutes and no further comments were made.
- c) **Events and Communications Committee 28.06.22** – Cllr Hall presented the minutes, there were no further comments.
- d) **Dothill Conservation Working Group** – Cllr Pierce presented the tabled report there were no questions.
- e) **Festival Working Group** – Members to note the cancellation of the remaining working group meetings. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE expressed his disappointment at the loss of the Festival and asked that the committee reconsider. Cllr Lowe said the decision had been taken to not hold a festival in May.
- f) **Climate Change Emergency Working Group meeting of 09.06.22** - Cllr Lowe said the Steering Group was making good progress towards plastic free status for Wellington.
- g) **Twinnings Visit and Relationship with Chatenay–Malabry** – Cllr Lowe gave a verbal report of the very successful visit that welcomed 12 French visitors on the Jubilee weekend and a further visit is being planned for next year in May or June. Cllr Lowe hoped that more people would consider joining the Twinning Association at a cost of £15.00 per annum. He thanked members for the £500.00 donation towards the cost of refreshments.
- h) **Regeneration Board Report 15th June 2022.** – Cllr de Launey presented the report and there were no further questions.
- i) **To Receive Report from the Community Action Team** – The Clerk had circulated the reports and there were no further questions.

32/22 Date of Next Meeting – was agreed as 13th September 2022

Chairman.....13th September 2022