

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Mayor
Cllr Paul Davis



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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at All Saints Church Wellington on Tuesday 13th July 2021 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present:

Cllr P Davis – Mayor	Cllr G. Cook	Cllr J. Gorse
Cllr D. Roberts- Deputy Mayor	Cllr J. Alvey	Cllr G. Luter
Cllr P. Morris-Jones	Cllr J. Pierce	Cllr C. Barker
Cllr P. Fairclough	Cllr S. Hall	Cllr J. Latter
Cllr M. Hosken	Cllr C. Brittain	Cllr A. Lowe
Cllr S. de Launey	Cllr U. Ahmed	Cllr A. McClements

In attendance: Rev. Tim Carter, Andrew Roberts Deputy Clerk and Karen Roper, Town Clerk.

22/21	Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone and reminded members the meeting was being livestreamed on Facebook. He sincerely thanked Rev. Carter and his team for permitting us to meet in the Church and invited him to lead prayers. Rev. Carter thanked God for the Covid vaccine that was now helping us to move out of lockdown and allowing us to help other countries. He also thanked God for the national health service and for all the kindness that had been shown to each other during the pandemic.
23/21	Apologies – Were received from Cllr Carter for health reasons, Cllrs Tomlinson and Jinks for holidays.
24/21	Declarations of Interest – None were received at this point.
25/21	Minutes of the Annual Full Council Meeting held on 4th May 2021 - These were proposed by Cllr Hosken as a true and accurate record, he was seconded by Cllr Cook and following a vote, all members were in agreement.
26/21	Matters Arising From those Minutes – none as all were covered in committee reports.
27/21	To receive and note the minutes of the following Wellington Town Council Committees. a) Policy and Resources Meeting dated 2nd June- Cllr de Launey presented the minutes and there were no questions. b) Policy and Resources Meeting dated 6th July – Cllr de Launey presented the minutes and the following points were made. • George Evans Memorial – a suitable rock had been identified and it

has been approved by the Evans' family. Transportation will be arranged with Idverde together with a suitable inscription.

- **Speed Indicator Device** - A request to recirculate the list of locations had been made.
- **The Town Centre Regeneration Board** – Cllr de Launey reported the Board did not meet in June as further information was needed from the Towns Deal Board. Cllr Hosken congratulated T&W on being successful in obtaining the money from Government and felt the public should have a say on the decisions relating to how and where the money should be spent.
It was explained that the Towns' Deal Board included representatives from the business community, the university and our local MP's. Part of the fund will be split between Oakengates and Wellington and it is understood that details had already gone to Government. Cllr Hosken said the Shropshire Star had given the incorrect impression that a vast amount of money would be spent in Wellington. Cllr de Launey said there was a £3 million gap in the funding relating to what was asked for and what was awarded and we don't know if this is some or all of the Wellington project. Cllr Lowe said it appeared that following comments made at our P&R meeting that our MP had not been attending the Towns Fund meetings and that he should be encouraged to fight Wellington's corner.
- **Parliamentary Boundary Review** – A proposal had been made by the boundary commission to rename the constituency as Newport and Wellington. Members were very much against this suggestion, Cllr de Launey proposed retaining the 'Wrekin constituency' name. He was seconded by Cllr Alvey and members voted unanimously in favour. Cllr McClements said we should also be considering the actual boundary suggestions and proposed that P&R have a meeting open to all Councillors to discuss the actual boundary proposals. She was seconded by Cllr Cook and members voted in favour with 2 abstentions.

c) **Planning Committee** – Cllr Luter presented the planning minutes of 12th May, 2nd & 23rd June – members made no comments.

d) **Events and Communications Committee** – Both the Chairman and the Vice Chair were unable to attend this meeting so members noted the minutes to meetings held on 25th May & 29th June.

28/21

Motion to Council to approve the Annual Governance Statement and Annual Accounting Statements for 2020/21

- a) To accept the recommendation from Policy and Resources Committee that Full Council approves and authorises the Mayor's signature on the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21.
- b) To accept the recommendation from Policy and Resources Committee that Full Council approves and authorises the Mayor's signature on the Annual Accounting Statements for 2020/21.

Cllr de Launey reported that no problems had been raised by the Internal Auditor on the accounts for this year although the regulations say they should have been approved by Full Council by 30th June 2021. The External Auditor had been informed that there was no Full Council Meeting held in June this year because of the Covid complications and the inability to hold remote meetings legally.

	<p>Cllr Hosken proposed acceptance of recommendations a & b and congratulated the Deputy Clerk on his excellent work. Members voted unanimously in favour.</p>
<p>30/21</p>	<p>To Receive Reports from the Climate Change Emergency Working Group meetings of 13th May, 8th June and 1st July 2021.</p> <p>The Climate Change Emergency Chairman proposed the following resolution for the Plastics Free Community Status.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The council agrees to put a member on your steering committee. 2. The council agrees to support 'Plastic Free Communities' initiatives in the area. 3. The council pledges to act by example and remove single-use items from its premises. <p>The motion was seconded by Cllr Alvey and members voted unanimously in favour.</p> <p>Cllr Latter presented the reports from the meetings held on 8th June 2021 and 1st July 2021, there were no further comments from members</p>
<p>31/21</p>	<p>Closure of Barclays Bank</p> <p>Cllr Crispin Barker presented the following Motion to Full Council on behalf of Cllr Lee Carter who was unable to attend this meeting.</p> <p>“This Council opposes the closure of Barclays Bank Branch in Wellington. At a time of increasing positivity and investment in our local High Street this is backward step by Barclays disenfranchising many residents and businesses from access to basic banking services.</p> <p>This Council will write to Barclays to express its views and urge them to reconsider.</p> <p>This Council urges Mark Pritchard MP to write to Barclays and ask Barclays to reconsider and for him to report to this Council on progress.”</p> <p>Members made the following points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Barker said based on Barclays own figures there are approx. 5,000 regular over the counter transactions demonstrating a real need. • There will be disruption to approx. 500 small businesses • Local residents without access to smart phones or computers will be greatly inconvenienced • Local residents would be forced to travel out of the town and this would have a detrimental effect on the climate change situation • The elderly will be most affected • Online scamming is on the increase • Local jobs will be lost and we have a duty to represent the people of Wellington • We need a proper bank that provides a good service • Cllr Latter said the Post Office can offer banking services • Unfortunately market practices are dictating what happens but we should encourage people to change banks taking their business elsewhere. • The situation is also happening elsewhere

	<p>The motion was Seconded by, Cllr Angela McClements and a vote was taken resulting in the members unanimously supporting the motion.</p> <p>Cllr Morris-Jones reminded members that the Town Council moved its account from the Nat West when they closed to Barclays. He said the Town Council account should now be moved to the remaining bank in Wellington, the TSB.</p>
32/21	<p>The Armed Forces Covenant – Council considered a pledge to acknowledge and understand the needs of the Armed Forces community and to ensure that they are treated with fairness and respect in all aspects of their life. The Chairman proposed that Wellington Town Council demonstrates its public commitment to the Armed Forces community by agreeing to the following two core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No member of the Armed Forces community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen. • In some circumstances, special treatment may be appropriate, especially for the injured or bereaved. <p>He was seconded by Cllr Hosken and members unanimously agreed.</p>
33/21	<p>The date of the next meeting was agreed as 14th September 2021</p>

Chairman.....14th September 2021