

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr D. Roberts



Town Clerk
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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th JULY 2022

Held face to face at Civic Offices commencing at 7.00pm and livestreamed on Facebook.

Present

Cllr S. de Launey (Chairman)	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr M. Hosken
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE	Cllr S. Hall	Cllr. P. Davis
Cllr L. Carter		

Also in attendance: Cllr. D. Roberts – Town Mayor (ex-officio), Cllr A. Lowe – Deputy Town Mayor (ex-officio) and A. Roberts – Deputy Town Clerk

- 16/22 Welcome** – Cllr de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 17/22 Apologies for Absence** – None. Members noted that the apologies of Karen Roper were recorded as she was on leave currently hence the attendance at the meeting of the Deputy Town Clerk.
- 18/22 Declarations of Interest** – Members noted that Cllr Morris-Jones MBE declared his interest relating to Wellington Orbit.
- 19/22 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 7th June 2022** – The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr S deLauney he was seconded by Cllr Hosken. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr S. Hall, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr P. Davis, Cllr J. Gorse, Cllr L Carter and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 20/22 Matters Arising**
- George Evans Tribute** – The Clerk reported that the signage had been ordered and awaiting receipt and that the logistics on how the sign containing the inscription affixed to the rock were still been investigated. The Mayor enquired as to whether there would be a formal ceremony when everything was in place to which the Chairman confirmed that this was the intention.
 - SIDs** – The Clerk informed the meeting that the SIDs were currently located at Bennetts Bank, Whitchurch Road and Glade Way. The meeting was advised that a number of further locations had been identified, and that current data was to be downloaded and forwarded to Telford & Wrekin Council for their information. There was a general discussion on the location of the SIDs at Haygate Road and Holyhead Road together with the importance of downloading the data and sharing the same with Telford & Wrekin Council which was used to inform the Borough Council accordingly. Members were requested to advise further locations within the Civil Parish area and that the current list would be re-circulated.
 - Parking** – Members noted the information that had been requested had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Morris-Jones referred to the possible re-location of the disabled spaces within the Belmont Hall Car Park, as he felt that the current locations were not appropriate. It was considered that this could be reviewed further by the Car Park Working

Group.

- d. **Planters** – Cllr Lowe reported that the Market Approach planters still remained in situ and he was enquiring as to whether there had been any progress on this matter.
- e. **To Consider an Honourarium for the Ale Taster and Town Crier** – Cllr Lowe had noted that this item had been referred back to Policy & Resources Committee from the previous Full Council meeting. The Chairman noted that this item had not been included on this meeting agenda, but would be deferred to the next meeting of Policy & Resources Committee.

21/22 Finance – Cllr M Hosken proposed and Cllr Davis seconded acceptance of items a-d listed below. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr S. Hall, Cllr P. Davis, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

- a. **To agree receipts** for May 2022
- b. **To agree payments** for May 2022
- c. **To agree Petty Cash** for May 2022
- d. **Receipts/Payments** compared with budget as at 31st May 2022.

Cllr P Morris-Jones enquired in relation to the payments made in relation to Shopwatch and Pubwatch and sought further clarification on these payments and further information in relation to the same. The Clerk was requested to obtain further information in relation to both schemes, including the outcomes arising from the same. It was agreed that this item would be placed on the agenda.

- e. **Borrowing Approval Update** – Members were advised that the Town Clerk had received notification from the Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) on the 13 June 2022 that they were content with the application and that the same had been forwarded to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities. It was noted that this was a required stage in the process.
- f. **End of Year Accounts Update** – The Clerk informed members that the Year End Accounts following Full Council approval had been submitted to the Council's External Auditors on the 28 June 2022 prior to the deadline of the 30 June 2022. It was further reported that the required Notification Period of Public Rights had been given and that the notice period commenced on 29 June 2022 and would end on the 10 August 2022, with confirmation of the notification on the Town Council's noticeboards, website and social media. Members were informed that the next stage in the process was that the External Auditors were obliged to conclude their audit by 30 September 2022, and that their report would be duly reported, as required.
- g. **Consideration of Grants** – The Chairman reported on the outcome of the grant applications that had been considered and that the following actions should be proposed as follows:
Bowring Runners and the Friends of Wellington Station deferred for further consideration.
Husaria UK, Polish Communities Supporting Ukraine and Sew Crafty – refused
Telford Interfaith Council – awarded £1,500
Wrekin Flower Club – awarded £1,000
Wellington Orbit – awarded - £466.22
These recommendations were proposed by Cllr S deLauney, seconded by Cllr M Hosken and resolved accordingly. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr S. Hall, Cllr P. Davis, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE wished to record his abstention due to his previously declared interest.
- h. **Twinning Association Grant** – The Chairman commented that he thought this matter had been agreed but had not been recorded in the minutes. This item was to confirm that the payment of £500 should be paid for this event. This was proposed by Cllr S deLauney,

seconded by Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE and resolved accordingly. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr S. Hall, Cllr P. Davis, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE wished to record his abstention due to his previously declared interest.

- i. **Friends of Wellington Station Project** – The Chairman requested that he would wish to defer this particular item and refer the matter to the August meeting which would consider this item together with their grant application.
- j. **To consider the updated Town Band Funding Contract** – Cllr Davis enquired as to whether this item could be deferred to the next meeting of the August meeting, on the basis that the revised agreement had been distributed prior to the meeting and that he hadn't had sufficient time to review the document. Cllr deLauney outlined that the main terms remained unchanged from the previous document but that this agreement would last for a period of five years subject to the payment of £4,000 per annum. This was proposed by Cllr S deLauney, seconded by Cllr L Carter and resolved accordingly. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P Morris-Jones, Cllr S Hall, Cllr P. Davis, Cllr J. Gorse, Cllr L Carter and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- k. **To consider an increase in Members Allowances** – The Chairman reported that this had been raised at the previous meeting of Policy & Resources Committee but following a discussion on this matter it was agreed that no further proposal would be made at this time, as it was not considered appropriate that there should be any increase. Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE whilst agreeing at this time that there should be no increase did make the comment that such payments should be re-considered if it was identified that the level of payment did not encourage potential candidates from standing for the Town Council in the future.

22/22 Old Chapel Quotation for Electrical Work – The Chairman updated Members on the agreed license agreement for the former chapel which had been concluded on the basis that minor electrical works were required. A quotation had been obtained and circulated. The Chairman proposed to go back and review what further options were available. Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE commented that an alternative approach should be considered which would be the acquisition for further quotes. Members were informed that the details of alternative electrical contractors had been supplied and that these would be contacted. Cllr L Carter suggested that a direct approach to the Telford & Wrekin Council BiT team should be made to establish what works would be required to commence bringing the building into use which would then inform as to what works were actually required.

23/22 Policing in Wellington – This item was noted. Cllr Hosken informed Members that the motion arose from him and it was therefore unclear as to why the item was being referred to Policy & Resources Committee. In conclusion it was considered to be for information only.

24/22 To consider Further Action regarding Parking Tickets issued by the venue at the Matoral Ball – This item was noted and the paper work that had been submitted with the meeting papers. Cllr D Roberts referred to the information that she had received following her enquiries and sought to clarify the situation. Cllr A Lowe provided further information to the meeting. Cllr P Davis commented that the Town Council should recognise that whilst some members round the table had been fined together with some residents in the past and that whilst the Town Council had attempted to establish as to where the responsibility lay with the enforcement of the car park, the Town Council should be seen to be supportive to local businesses, and that the shifting of responsibility was not helpful. Cllr Roberts view was that the external signage might not be appropriate, but questioned as to whether greater and more effective signage should be prominently displayed inside the establishment. Cllr L Carter's view was that public monies were being utilised to "fight" individual cases which he considered was inappropriate. Following a further discussion it was proposed by Cllr L

Carter, that the meeting should move to next business, this was seconded by Cllr P Davis and resolved accordingly. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P Morris-Jones, Cllr S Hall, Cllr P. Davis, Cllr J. Gorse, Cllr L Carter and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions. Subsequent to this Cllr L Carter proposed and Cllr M Hosken seconded that no further actions should be taken by the Town Council or it's officers in relation to this matter. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P Morris-Jones, Cllr S Hall, Cllr P. Davis, Cllr J. Gorse, Cllr L Carter and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

- 25/22 To receive the Regeneration Board Report and to approve the Levelling Up Support Letters** – The Chairman reported that the minutes of the Board were not currently available because they contained some information which at the time should not have been published within the public domain, but the matters had progressed now, which would enable the minutes for the June and July meetings be reported to the August meeting of the Policy & Resorces Committee. Members were also referred to those supporting letters which had been submitted within the meeting papers and the Chairman provided further updates in relation to these letters, which were considered appropriate to be sent, and were required to be sent urgently, these actions were supported and noted.
- 26/22 The next meeting date was agreed as 2nd August 2022 commencing at 7:00pm**
- 27/22 Closure of Meeting** – The Chairman proposed closure of the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Local Government Act 1972, this was seconded by Cllr Gorse and resolved accordingly. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P Morris-Jones, Cllr S Hall, Cllr P. Davis, Cllr J. Gorse, Cllr L Carter and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 28/22 To receive an update from the Orbit project** – The Chairman provided an update report in relation to the Wellington Orbit Project.
- 29/22 Update on Market Street Proposals** – The Chairman provided an update report on the current proposals for the Market Street scheme.

Chairman.....2nd August 2022