

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Mayor
Cllr Paul Davis



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Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Wellington Town Council, held on Zoom on Tuesday, 8th March 2022 starting at 7.00pm.

Present

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

Also in Attendance; Rev. Tim Carter, Andrew Roberts and Karen Roper Town Clerk.

98/21	Welcome - The Mayor welcomed everyone to the online meeting and commented on the war in Ukraine. He then called upon Rev T. Carter to lead prayers.
99/21	Prayers – Rev. T. Carter asked members to take a moment of quiet and pray for peace and the refugees in the Ukraine. He then highlighted that today was International Women’s Day and that the contribution of all the inspirational women in Wellington should be recognised. The Mayor thanked Rev. Carter for his attendance.
100/21	Public Open Session –This online meeting was livestreamed on Facebook.
101/21	Apologies – Were received and approved from Cllr C. Brittain for health issues and Cllr U. Ahmed for family matters. Voting in favour of acceptance of these apologies were; Cllrs: P. Davis, D. Roberts A. McClements, P. Morris-Jones MBE, S. de Launey, S. Hall, P. Fairclough J. Pierce, J. Latter, G. Luter, L. Jinks, L. Carter, J Gorse, G. Cook, K. Tomlinson, J. Alvey, C. Barker, A. Lowe and M. Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions
102/21	Declarations of Interest – None were received.
103/21	Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8th February 2022- The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr J. Gorse, 2 nd by Cllr. G. Luter. A vote was taken to approve the above minutes and in favour were Cllrs: P. Davis, D. Roberts A. McClements, P. Morris-Jones MBE, S. de Launey, S. Hall, P. Fairclough J. Pierce, J. Latter, G. Luter, L. Jinks, L. Carter, J Gorse, G. Cook, K. Tomlinson,

	<p>J. Alvey, C. Barker, A. Lowe and M. Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.</p>
<p>104/21</p>	<p>Matters Arising From those Minutes – Cllr L. Jinks quoted minute Ref: 97/21 challenging the validity of holding this meeting and the last virtually. She said that the legislation to hold online meetings was not extended in April last year therefore in her view this meeting is illegal. She stated she thought she was the only legally qualified person in attendance and had researched the situation. She then asked what legislation are were relying upon to hold this virtual meeting.</p> <p>Cllr S. de Launey said that Full Council had transferred its decision making powers to the Policy and Resources Committee, therefore any decisions Full Council make have no legal bearing so cannot be challenged. All the Councils' wishes will be carried out through Policy and Resources who meet face to face to carry out the instructions of Full Council. This is actually a representative meeting and has no legal powers therefore cannot be challenged.</p> <p>The Clerk said Full Council made the decision to devolve its power in January, following the lead from Telford and Wrekin Council who were meeting with a reduced number of members in attendance. She said a close eye is being kept on the situation and the Full Town Council only legally needs to meet four times a year. All of its functions can be carried out by committees or officers with delegated power, the only exception being the setting the precept.</p> <p>Cllr S. de Launey said we should be clear that this is a consultative meeting we are not holding remote statutory meetings.</p> <p>Cllr. Jinks asked why hybrid meetings could not be held allowing people to attend in person if they so wished and others to attend remotely. Cllr de Launey said the same legislation that prohibited online meetings also applies to hybrid meetings so it cannot be done. Cllr Jinks asked for the legislation that applies. Cllr de Launey said it was the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>Cllr P. Morris-Jones said he felt we should be getting back to normal and setting an example to all the smaller groups not hiding behind our front doors. In his view we are bending the rules and passing our responsibilities to P&R which seems totally wrong.</p> <p>Cllr C. Barker said as an elected member he wished to move to next business now, Cllr de Launey also wished to move next business, the Mayor agreed.</p>
<p>105/21</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p>To receive and note the reports of the following Wellington Town Council Committees.</p> <p>Policy and Resources 1st March 2022 – Cllr S. de Launey confirmed the minutes had been circulated and raised the following points.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) George Evans Tribute – The rock is now in place and an inscription has been received from the family and would be attached to the rock. 2) SIDS – Cllr de Launey said we think these are now working well and asked that all Cllrs report any problems to the clerk or deputy clerk. 3) Jubilee Trees – The trees were planted by Balfour Beattie. The plaques and guards are yet to be installed. Once this is done Councillors will be contacted for a photo opportunity. Cllr Alvey asked where the trees in the Square are, Cllr de Launey said they were moved to make way for the Christmas tree. 4) Cllrs Allowances – These will be paid with the March payroll which is due around 14th and notifications would be sent via email shortly <p>Planning Committee held on 9th February 2022 – Cllr G. Luter presented the previously circulated minutes. There were no questions.</p> <p>Events & Communications Committee held on 22nd February 2022 – Cllr J. Pierce presented the previously circulated minutes. Cllr S. de Launey congratulated Cllr J.</p>

	<p>Pierce on being elected as the new Chairman of the Committee. The Mayor also commented that Cllr Pierce did a tremendous job of Chairing that meeting. Cllr Barker said the Jubilee trees were discussed at this meeting and the committee clerk would give a report to the next meeting. He had photos proving his view that the tree planted in Haygate Ward was in an inappropriate position. Cllr S de Launey said this was simply an error. Cllr Tomlinson said she had discussed the issue with the Environmental Officer who said they may be able to move the tree. Cllr Lowe reminded members that there will be a photo opportunity for all Councillors once the guards and plaque were installed.</p>
106/21	<p>Climate Change Emergency Working Group meetings of 2nd March 2022 – The minutes had been previously circulated. Cllr Davis presented them and there were no questions from members.</p>
107/21	<p>CAT Team Meeting – The Clerk had circulated the reports for March including the points made by the Group Leaders and action is being taken on the problems listed in the report. Cllr. L Carter said the CAT Team should be applauded for the significant investment in CCTV and the work done particularly in Esplay Close which was reported in the Shropshire Star both to deter and catch fly tippers. Lots of businesses and individuals had expressed their appreciation of the work being done. The Clerk said that Cllr Hosken reported that he had been informed of the great work done by the enforcement officer in his area. Cllr Gorse commented that we can see things are improving but the Police do not seem to be involved in these meetings and people do have concerns. The Clerk said the Police have been requested to re-join the CAT meetings and the linkages were still there. Any incidents are reported through the CAT system and are acted upon. The Clerk reported on a recent meeting with the Chief Superintendent where he had offered Police attendance at two Full Council meetings per year.</p> <p>Cllr Hosken asked that the CAT team look again at the lack of TRO's at the Morris Care Centre as in his view, it is an accident waiting to happen. Ambulances are trying squeeze through at all times and it is very difficult for them to get out.</p> <p>Cllr Tomlinson was happy to see the patrols were attending at Charlton and Dothill schools because there have been a lot of issues with poor parking and road rage. She reported that recently an Ambulance could not gain access to a cul de sac due to inconsiderate parking. Unfortunately problems are around Apley Avenue and Whitchurch Road where it is legal to park on one side of the road and cars coming up have nowhere to go creating the need for one car to reverse. She had asked the school to appeal to parents to leave some gaps and was glad to see this matter is a high priority. Cllr Tomlinson had raised this as a Borough Councillor and added often people can't get double buggies past the parked cars.</p> <p>Cllr Jinks wished to reiterate what Cllr Tomlinson had said stating this situation also applied to Severn Drive where parking is a major issue and she said that people comply when they see the Officers in their bright jackets. The other area of concern is Bagley Drive, there is a car park at the back of the shops that could be used so she asked if the patrols could go around all of Dothill including Severn Drive and Bagley Drive.</p> <p>Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said more attention should be paid to the area around the Orbit. Recently vehicles had parked on double yellow lines and left their engines idling letting exhaust fumes into the Café area. Additionally, the car park at the Belmont Hall has no disabled parking near the hall and there 7 disabled spaces outside the night club that need to be moved to the entrance of Belmont Hall.</p>
108/21	<p>Wellington Town Council and the Ukraine- The Mayor said he had requested this agenda item to give members the opportunity to speak about the war.</p> <p>Cllr Lowe – said the thought we should consider making a financial gesture to the Ukraine Disaster emergency committee.</p>

	<p>Cllr McClements said she would support a donation as the situation has touched us all. There are 17,700 applications for visas to come to join family in the UK yet only 640 are confirmed so far only 300 issued. She requested we write to Mark Prichard asking him to tell Government this is an emergency situation and we cannot wait. She felt quite emotional, frustrated and angry that we do not seem to be as supportive as other countries and we need to get on with it. She proposed sending an urgent letter to MP Mark Pritchard to get the visa systems going.</p> <p>Cllr Alvey said he thought that people did not realise how close this issue is to us. His brother in law had said it was absolutely terrifying and we must do something effective. Cllr Alvey also said he had heard people asking what are the council doing about it and how are you helping? The Mayor said this is the first opportunity the Town Council has had to meet to discuss this which is why he was keen for the agenda item to be included.</p> <p>Cllr Tomlinson seconded Cllr McClements' proposal to write to our MP to push Government to get their act together and provide visas for these desperate people to escape this atrocity. She added 'we are failing these people, we are emotional we all know someone who is there and they are struggling, we need to do something'. She also agreed with Cllr Lowe to make a financial donation. Voting in favour were. Cllrs: P. Davis, D. Roberts A. McClements, P. Morris-Jones MBE, S. de Launey, S. Hall, P. Fairclough J. Pierce, J. Latter, G. Luter, L. Jinks, L. Carter, J Gorse, G. Cook, K. Tomlinson, J. Alvey, C. Barker, A. Lowe and M. Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions</p> <p>Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said we should be looking to see what the Town Council can do to support these brave souls, they need money more than anything. Through our Community Grant system he would like to formally propose that any balance left in the Community Grants Fund should be donated to help the crisis.</p> <p>Cllr Lowe said that he had an exchange of e mails with Mark Pritchard who had indicated that the Government is actively working with Local Councils to offer help to Ukrainian refugees and he would circulate the email to members. He would like to endorse Cllr Morris-Jones MBE's proposal but would like the donation to be a minimum of £1,000.</p> <p>Cllr S. de Launey proposed a donation of £2,500 and was seconded by Cllr J. Gorse Voting in favour were. Cllrs: P. Davis, D. Roberts A. McClements, P. Morris-Jones MBE, S. de Launey, S. Hall, P. Fairclough J. Pierce, J. Latter, G. Luter, L. Jinks, L. Carter, J Gorse, G. Cook, K. Tomlinson, J. Alvey, C. Barker, A. Lowe and M. Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions</p> <p>Cllr Luter asked that these items are actioned quickly. Cllr de Launey said the Clerk and the Chairman of P&R can move the payment urgently. Cllr Roberts said she felt there is no rush for this as the crisis may go on for some time. Cllr Luter said that other people are in better positions than us to decide where and when the money is needed. We should not think about delaying payment.</p> <p>Cllr Latter asked that the Town Council publish the places where donations of clothing on Social media and the website etc</p> <p>Cllr Carter left the meeting.</p>
109/21	<p>To consider the format and Location of the next Full Council Meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk had previously circulated the current guidance from NALC regarding online meetings. She also gave members details of availability for use of the football club premises and the Arlestone Community Centre as alternative venues to hold the next meetings, she felt it was up to members to decide how they wished to go forward. Cllr de Launey said if the reducing numbers of infections continues to come down he would feel fairly comfortable that on 12th April we meet in person and proposed that P&R return Powers to full council. P&R would also be requested to agree that future</p>

	<p>Full Council meetings would be face to face and will determine whether we need to look at an alternative arrangements for rooms with appropriate social distancing.</p> <p>Cllr Jinks said she had respect for those who don't wish to attend meetings face to face. However she had attended meetings where people have linked in virtually. She suggested we could use the café / library facilities that will not incur fees but will allow us to go back to face to face meetings and those who do not wish to attend can link in virtually creating a very simple compromise.</p> <p>Cllr de Launey said the very law that stops us meeting face to face also stops us linking into meetings virtually.</p> <p>Cllr Jinks said she cannot find the legislation he is referring to. She continued to ask what legislation is being relied upon. Cllr de Launey said it will be LGA 1972. The Mayor closed debate on the matter.</p> <p>Cllr Barker said we move ahead with plan a) or plan b) and the most appropriate option for plan b) seems to be the Arlestone Community Centre. If this is deemed not appropriate he suggested meeting in the Council Chamber and that P&R make the appropriate decision.</p> <p>The Mayor said if Powers are brought back to Full Council we need to make sure that all Councillors can represent their constituents in a safe manner and agreed that if Cllrs feel safe in the Council Chamber the meeting will be held there, if not we have an alternative.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts said it would be annoying if we have to pay to use Arlestone Community Centre when we financially support them. The Clerk confirmed no fee has been mentioned.</p> <p>Cllr Morris –Jones MBE said we should get back to normal meetings in our own premises. There was support from Cllr Hosken for this comment.</p> <p>Cllr McClements said the last full council meeting, when we were packed into the chamber and infection numbers were going up week by week she felt vulnerable and it was really worrying especially for those shielding vulnerable people.</p> <p>Cllr de Launey proposed that P&R return powers to full council and will keep a watching brief on the infection rates. P&R would also be requested to agree that the next Full Council meeting on 12th April would be face to face and will determine whether there was a need to look at an alternative arrangements for rooms that can accommodate social distancing. He was seconded by the Mayor.</p> <p>Voting in favour were. Cllrs: P. Davis, D. Roberts A. McClements, P. Morris-Jones MBE, S. de Launey, S. Hall, P. Fairclough J. Pierce, J. Latter, G. Luter, L. Jinks, L. Carter, J Gorse, G. Cook, K. Tomlinson, J. Alvey, C. Barker, A. Lowe and M. Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions</p>
110/21	<p>The date of the next meeting was agreed as 12th April 2022</p> <p>The Clerk said that following a discussion with the Mayor, it had been confirmed that the Annual Assembly Meeting would be held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7.00pm. Members had been circulated with minutes of last year's meeting and the Clerk had requested ideas from members to make it a more interesting event.</p>

Chairman.....12th April 2022