

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Anthony Lowe
 B.A. (Hons)



Town Clerk
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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 10th March 2020 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr A. Lowe – Mayor	Cllr D. Roberts	Cllr P. Davis	Cllr K. Tomlinson
Cllr P. Fairclough - Deputy Mayor	Cllr. J. Latter	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr J. Alvey
Cllr A. McClements	Cllr J. Pierce	Cllr G. Luter	
Cllr P. Morris-Jones	Cllr F. Burns	Cllr S. Hall	
Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr S. de Launey	Cllr L. Carter,	

In attendance: Rev. Tim Carter, 2 Members of the public, Alex Moore, press. Presenters; Harjot Rayet and Robert Saunders, Karen Roper Town Clerk.

130/19	Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and called on Rev. Tim Carter to take prayers.
131/19	Tributes to former Mayor – Mary Lewis The Mayor called upon Cllr Gorse to lead the tributes to Mary Lewis following her recent passing. Cllr Gorse recounted that Mary was Town Mayor twice and a driving force behind the literary festival. She led the campaign to save the Wellington Cottage Hospital, was one of the first Street Pasteur's and was very active at the Methodist Church. She said Mary was a very special lady and loyal friend who would be sadly missed. Cllr Alvey wished to express his condolences, he remembered her as a kind and caring person, a true and loyal friend without whom the world is a worse place. Cllr de Launey said he met Mary when he joined the Council in the year 2000. He said she was a kind lady and he remembered her fondly, she was a sad loss to this world. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said the tributes are heart felt and she would be missed. Cllr Gorse called for the Council to honour her with one minutes' silence.
132/19	Harjot Rayet - The Mayor invited Harjot Rayet, Climate Change & Sustainability Coordinator for Telford and Wrekin to address the Council. The Clerk said she would distribute the slides of both presentations to members. Harjot demonstrated the result of climate change/global warming, including flooding droughts and fires. She explained that the Government had set a target of 2050 to achieve zero emissions, Telford and Wrekin Council on 25.07.19 set themselves a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. An action plan was launched last month identifying actions e.g. energy efficient lighting LED, electric vehicles, solar energy and sustainable travel. A tool kit was being developed by Telford and Wrekin for Parish and Town Councils shortly. Harjot said she would facilitate working with other parishes who were also declaring a Climate Emergency. The following comments were made by members; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Alvey – said global warming has been going on a long time, this is not new and that the alternative to fossil fuels could mean nuclear which in his view is worse. • Cllr Morris-Jones MBE asked why the planning development committee was not insisting on solar panels on all new build houses. Also why are we not planting more trees?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Roberts – said people should be encouraged to plant trees in their gardens. <p>Harjot responded by saying the right trees need to be planted so they can cope with the changing, warmer climate and that building control is looking at the fabrics used to build homes and at renewable energy technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Gorse - Asked if the Schools were involved and was assured they were. <p>Cllr Lowe – Thanked Harjot for the presentation this evening and suggested that declaring a climate change emergency should be on agenda for the April meeting.</p>
7.05pm	Cllr McClements joined and Rev. Carter left the meeting.
133/19	Robert Saunders - The Mayor introduced Robert Saunders who explained he was involved with many organisations including LA 21 and the Green Shropshire Exchange in addition to the Marches Energy Strategy Steering Group. His presentation demonstrated the seriousness of the situation relating to the speed of climate change and impact on the earth. He explained what other Councils were doing and how SALC and the Wrekin Area Committee had taken up the challenge and urged Wellington Town Council to join them. Cllr Lowe on behalf of the Council thanked Robert for his presentation.
134/19	Apologies – Were received from Cllrs Cook, Brittain, Ahmed and Hosken. The apologies were accepted.
135/19	<p>Mayor’s report on his work since the previous meeting - The following list of dates were tabled to members.</p> <p><u>February</u> 10 Meetings at WTC ref Wellington Festival, Mayors Dinner etc 11 Meeting at Nathan Rous ref Comms for Wellington Festival. Council 12 Podcast with Adam James at Nathan Rous 13 Parking and Enforcement in Wellington 2nd meeting with Adam Brookes, Paul Fenn, Richard Warmsley, Karen Roper. 14 Meeting with Alan Frost and Love Wellington team. Meeting with Radoslava ref Bulgarian Dance. 17 Funeral Rob Eyres. Launch of new Salsa Dance location at Whispers 18 Meeting with Network Rail. Festival Committee. 25 P&L 26 ICM, Planning, Twinning Assoc dinner at Golf Club 27 Meeting with Maninplace Miss Lucy Treharne. Wellington LGBT lecture in library Mary Whitehouse 28 Meeting with Raj at Sophia’s café followed by 2nd meeting with Maninplace and 3rd meeting with both Raj and Alan Olver ref Anti Social Behaviour in New St.</p> <p><u>March</u> 2 Meeting at Wrekin college ref Mayor’s dinner 3 Meetings with Paola Armstrong ref Festival and Steve De Launey ref Parking and other issues. P&R 4 Telford College Outstanding Young Citizen’s Awards Ceremony 6 Shawbirch Councillors walkabout 7 Charter Day 10 Nanny Ji press opportunity in Market Annex. Council.</p>
136/19	To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 11th February 2020 - Cllr Alvey proposed the minutes for acceptance and was seconded by Cllr Davis, members voted unanimously to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.
137/19	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>a) Bowring Lease – The Clerk reported the Solicitor would be serving the lease as soon as possible. Cllr Jinks said it was of concern that this matter was still not resolved and it</p>

	<p>was the taxpayer that missing out financially. She also said that the situation may be perceived as biased because this business is being supported by the Town Council. She asked if the Solicitor was on a fixed price for the work or an hourly rate. Cllr de Launey said the Town Councils' Solicitor would be paid for the work he is doing. The first year of the lease has been altered to start from the date of signature running to the 31st December 2020. Therefore whenever the lease is signed it would have no impact on the cost to the tax payer. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said this situation was taking far too long to resolve. Cllr Alvey said the Café was providing a great service to the people of Wellington.</p> <p>b) Idverde – Cllr Alvey said Idverde were doing a great job removing the chewing gum in the High Street. Cllr. Luter said that Idverde were addressing areas that had not been attended to in a long time so he commended their actions. Cllr. Morris Jones asked if the wheelie bins issue had been resolved. The Clerk said the bins issue had been raised but she was not aware it had been resolved as yet. She had agreed to meet monthly with Idverde to walk around and identify any problems. She invited members let her know if there were any problems in their Wards.</p>
<p>138/19</p>	<p>To Receive and Note the Minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to Consider and Deal with the Recommendations Made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Resources Committee 3rd March 2020 – Cllr de Launey presented the minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Speed Indicator Device (SID) – The Clerk said the SID was in the Town Council offices and the street lighting dept. were undertaking an audit to ascertain if the columns were strong enough to hold the weight of the SID. ○ Defibs – Cllr Tomlinson said the positioning of the second unit was being resolved with the help of Cllr John Thompson. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said that the Orbit has received a donated defib. unit and was now open 7 days and 7 nights up to 10.00pm. Cllr Burns said the Planning Committee would like guidance on adopting telephone boxes that could serve to house defib. units but would also incur maintenance and supervision costs. ○ Gateway Signs – Members said the sign at Apley was still not in place and asked the Clerk to chase its installation again. The location of the next three signs was confirmed as, Dawley Road, Junction 7 and Admaston Road. ○ Cyclist dismount signs – Members agreed these should be erected as soon as possible. ○ Other Signs – Cllr. Morris-Jones MBE said the stop sign outside of the Funeral Directors had been turned the wrong way. Cllr. McClements said the signs could be set up to stop people turning them. ○ Twinning Association – Cllr de Launey said P&R had agreed to fund the reception food for the French visitors in May. ○ Ceremonial Office holders – An expenses budget had been identified for the Town Crier and the Ale Taster. ○ Flag – Cllr Burns said P&R had agreed to fly the flag every day unless it is more appropriate to fly another. ○ GDPR training – It was agreed that GDPR training would be appropriate at the 9th June meeting. • Planning Meeting Dated 26th February 2020 – Cllr Alvey said the committee had been very busy. He presented the minutes and these were seconded by Cllr. Jinks, the following comments were made;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Cock Hotel – The planning application to upgrade the pub had now gone through. ○ Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's) – 2 applications had been forwarded at the last meeting. The issue of HMO's seems to keep coming forward. The Planning Committee requested views from Full Council upon this subject. It was proposed by Cllr de Launey, seconded by Cllr Alvey and agreed by members to invite a speaker from the Borough to give a presentation on this issue to Full Council in April. ● Promotions and Liaison Meeting dated 25th February 2020 – Cllr McClements presented the minutes. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE asked about linking the event at the Plough pub and the Town Council event in the Market Square. He was assured the 2 events were on separate days namely Friday 8th May and Saturday 9th May. Cllr Davis said there was discussion over changes to the sugar beet route for Walkers are Welcome.
139/19	Conservation Working Group of 4th March – Cllr Tomlinson presented the minutes stating that the Committee Clerk was requested to send a letter of thanks to Jacqui Seymour for all her help following her resignation from this group. An update was given on the proposal to build a public house near to Dohill school. Work being undertaken on the site was destroying the habitat for Great Crested Newts by cutting down trees and bracken. Cllr Jinks said that the development looks to be well over boundary lines and would be closely monitored.
140/19	Carer Friendly Employer – The proposal from P&R to formalise the Town Council's position as a Carer Friendly Employer was voted upon and unanimously accepted by Full Council.
141/19	ICM – Members had received notes to the meeting held on 26 th February. The next meeting date is Thursday 19 th March at 12.00 noon. Members commented that decisions regarding Parking and double yellow line should be made as a group and not made by individuals. Ward Councillors requested they are informed of complaints / problems brought to the office by members of the public.
142/19	30th March 2020 Plastic Free Wellington Relay Litter Collection – Cllr Davis explained that areas needing attention would be identified and Councillors were requested to volunteer.
143/19	Matters for Information Only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The WEST Team Report - was sent to members for noting ● Mayors Fundraising Event – The Mayor requested donation of raffle prizes and invited members to bring their friends and neighbours to the event. ● Parking Working Group – Next meeting date 18th March ● The Regeneration Board – Members were informed the next meeting date for the Regeneration Board is on 18th March.
144/19	Closure of the meeting was proposed by Cllr Burns and seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed by members to discuss the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee in relation to the future service delivery of public toilets.
8.25pm	The press and public left the meeting
145/19	Public Conveniences – Cllr de Launey asked Full Council for permission to, if necessary, incur costs to investigate the future provision of this service. Members agreed, Cllr Burns asked that confidentiality be maintained.
146/19	Next Meeting date – Was agreed as 14 th April 2020 at 7.00pm

Chairman.....Date 14th April 2020