

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr P. Davis



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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th APRIL 2022

Held face to face at Civic Offices on Tuesday 5th April 2022 commencing at 7.00pm and livestreamed on Facebook.

Present

Cllr S. de Launey	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr M Hosken
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE	Cllr L Carter	

Also in attendance: A.Roberts

- 157/21 Welcome** - The Chairman, Cllr S de Launey welcomed members to the meeting.
- 158/21 Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were accepted from Cllr S Hall (illness) and Cllr A McClements (family commitment). The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 159/21 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr L Carter declared an interest in respect of his membership of the Wellington Regeneration Partnership together with his Borough Councillor status as the Cabinet Member responsible for Neighbourhood Services, Regeneration and the High Street and his membership of the Towns Board. Cllrs S deLauney, Cllr J Gorse and Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE also declared their respective interests as members of the Wellington Regeneration Partnership. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 160/21 To agree the format and location of the Full Council Meeting dated 12th April 2022**
The Chairman informed that the Committee had been requested to consider and determine the format and location of future Full council meetings. There was a general discussion in relation to the same and the general view was that meetings should be held in the Town Council offices, whilst having regard to those Members who felt it was unsafe or they were not comfortable. The Chairman suggested as to whether the Council Chamber should be limited to Members only and that whilst there was a general view that members of the public should be invited to be present they could be located within the adjoining Lesley's Meeting Room with an extended audio link. It was agreed that the matter would be fully investigated and the issue delegated between officers and the Chairman of the Committee – Cllr J Gorse proposed, seconded by Cllr L Carter, and unanimously approved by all members. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- 161/21 To comply with the request to return decision making powers to Full Council at the meeting of the 12th April 2022**
The Chairman advised that this item was seeking the return and relinquishment of full decision powers back to Full Council in accordance with their previous request. This was proposed by Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE, seconded by Cllr deLauney and resolved

accordingly. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

162/21 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 1st March 2022 - The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr J Gorse and she was seconded by Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

163/21 Matters Arising

- a. **George Evans Tribute** – The meeting was advised that this matter was still in progress and that following the last meeting an email had been sent to the Shropshire and Telford Trades Union Council in order to obtain details of where they had obtained their inscription sign for their rock located within the Peace Garden but to date no response had been received. The meeting was informed that this would be pursued further.
- b. **SIDs** – The Clerk confirmed that the units had been moved since the previous meeting and were now situated along Bennetts Bank, Whitchurch Road adjacent to St Marks Drive and Glade Way, Shawburch. The meeting was informed that they had been checked to ensure that they were calibrated correctly and that they were fully operational and that there were no adverse issues to report.
- c. **Queens Jubilee Trees** – It was reported that all seven trees had now been planted at all of the locations that had been previously circulated to all Policy & Resources Committee members and that the enclosures and plaques had also been installed. Members were further informed that a photoshoot had taken place earlier in the day alongside the tree that had been planted in the Bowring Park and attended by a number of Town Councillors and that the photograph had been published on the Town Council's social media channels.
- d. **Trees and Planters** – the meeting received a report on the recent meeting that had been held in relation to the trees and planters that had been originally located within Market Square. The meeting was reminded that these had to be moved into Market Approach to ensure that there was sufficient room for the Christmas Tree and to maximise space for people attending the Christmas Lights switch on event. It was agreed at the meeting that Market Square should generally be kept clear to enable more events to be held and that the Christmas Tree should be located within the Market Square. Various future options for the trees and the planters were discussed at the earlier meeting and a number of these were discussed further within Policy & Resources. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE commented that something could be done backed up by the taking of technical professional advice. It was agreed that some further investigation could be undertaken looking at additional floral arrangements on the four main lampposts within the Market Square, but that Market Square should remain free from the trees and planters been returned to this area. Following a further discussion, it was agreed that following consultation with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the requirement that the local ward members be notified of actions undertaken that further investigative work would be undertaken and reported further.

164/21 Finance - Cllr M Hosken proposed Cllr L Carter 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 L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

- a. **To agree receipts** for February 2022
- b. **To agree payments** for February 2022

Cllr Hosken enquired about the payment made to Granville Construction in relation to the roller shutter repair at the Bowring Café and as to whether it was the responsibility of the Town Council. By way of response the meeting was advised that the repair was the responsibility of the Town Council to discharge in accordance with the Head Lease with Telford & Wrekin Council.

- c. **To Agree Petty Cash** for February 2022
- d. **Receipts/Payments** compared with budget as at 28th February 2022
- e. **Grants Panel** – The Chairman reported on the outcome of the Grants Panel that had met earlier. This report was proposed by Cllr deLauney and seconded by Cllr Hosken and RESOLVED accordingly. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

165/21 To receive a report from the Community Action Team (including WEST) – The Clerk had circulated the written reports from the Wellington CAT Action plans for March and April 2022 and the latest report of the Environment Community Liaison Officer. There were no further questions from members. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE raised an issue in connection with the current disabled car parking arrangements within the Belmont Car Park and that this issue should be raised at a future CAT meeting and as to whether they should be re-located. Cllr Gorse commented that she welcomed the extra CCTV cameras that had been installed within the Town, which increased public safety. Cllr Carter indicated that car-parking arrangements were continually been reviewed and suggested as to whether it was an appropriate moment to reconvene the Car Parking Working Group and to arrange a meeting of the same in the next month or so.

166/21 Confirmation of Actions to Support Ukraine
 It was confirmed that the actions that had been requested at the previous Full Council meeting namely the donation to the Ukraine Appeal of £2500, the letter to the local MP, expressing the Town Council comments in relation the treatment of people trying to escape Ukraine. In addition, to this and following a member request the Town Council to indicate their support to Ukraine by the flying of the Ukraine National Flag was also actioned. In order to give legal effect to these actions agreement were noted and that these actions were endorsed.

167/21 To approve the draft Application for Borrowing to enable Regeneration Projects
 Members were referred to the draft borrowing report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting, it was indicated that the only items that were required to be confirmed was the cost implications of the loan. Members were requested to confirm their approval to the contents. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE queried as to whether the comment in relation to the level of the precept was correct. It was confirmed that the element in relation to the precept level was correct. There was also an enquiry as to whether the report needed to be more specific as to the use of the loan requirement. Cllr deLauney commented that this had been an element of discussions with the appropriate Central Government Department but it was reported that a general regeneration requirement had been accepted in principle and that there was a commercial necessity for this. It was proposed by Cllr M Hosken, seconded by Cllr S deLauney and unanimously approved. The following members unanimously voted in agreement, Cllr S. de Launey, Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE, Cllr L. Carter, Cllr J. Gorse and Cllr M Hosken. There were no votes against and no abstentions. It was agreed that the approval of the report would be reported to the next Full Council meeting.

168/21 The next meeting date was agreed as 3rd May 2022
 Members were further reminded that the Annual Town Assembly Meeting would take place in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 4th May 2022.

Reference was made to an email that had been circulated as to whether the Town Council would wish to sign up and register to the national Year of Well-being and it was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Chairman.....3rd May 2022