

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Pat Fairclough



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ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Virtual Annual Council Meeting held on Zoom on Tuesday 4th May 2021 commencing at 6.45pm.

Present:

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

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

Public Open Session – Cllr Fairclough had technical difficulties and welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6.45pm. She said it had been a difficult year and was disappointed that she had been unable to do everything she would have wanted to achieve due to the Covid situation. She was proud to have made the following presentations;

1.0 Wellington Keys to:

- **Allan Frost** – For his work over many years with the Civic Society
- **Rob Francis** – For his years of commitment delivering events and services to Wellington
- **Marc Petty** – For his generous services to Wellington through LA21

2.0 Mayors Award - Framed Certificates Awarded to:

- **Wellington Orbit** – Because they kept going through the Pandemic and helped our hospitals.
- **Arleston Community Centre** – The Interfaith Group for running the much needed food banks and breakfast clubs.
- **Local Schools** - The Mayor said that ward councillors had informed her of the work done by the following schools. She had awarded certificates to recognise all the help they have given to local families and the community throughout the pandemic;
 - **Charlton School**
 - **Ercall Wood Academy**
 - **Shortwood School**
 - **Wrekin View Primary School**
 - **Dothill Primary**
 - **St. Patricks catholic Primary School**

The Mayor said she was proud and delighted to be able to make these awards and thanked Caroline Mulvihill for her organisational skills that had enabled the presentations to be made. The Mayor then thanked Reverend Carter for his technical knowledge to deliver the virtual Remembrance and Carol services and for his assistance with the foodbanks. She then asked him to lead prayers. He thanked God for all of the people doing good things in the community and for the success of the Wellington Festival and the upcoming elections.

6.50 pm Virtual Annual General Meeting

01/21 Election of Mayor – The Mayor, Cllr Fairclough, called for nominations to elect a new Mayor. Cllr Pierce proposed Cllr Davis and was seconded by Cllr Carter. There being no further nominations, members voted UNANIMOUSLY that Cllr Davis be elected to serve as Mayor until the next Annual meeting. He said he was honoured to accept the nomination, thanked members for his election and put on the chain of office.

02/21 Signing the Acceptance of Office Form by the Incoming Mayor - Cllr Davis thanked everyone for electing him and duly signed the Acceptance of Office form. He was then congratulated by members who gave him a round of applause.

03/21 Tributes to the Outgoing Mayor.

Cllr Davis, Town Mayor – said that Cllr Fairclough had indeed had a difficult year but had managed to remain very busy and set a good example. She had been very supportive to him and had offered her help and guidance. He thanked her for her dedicated service.

Cllr Tomlinson said the Mayor had been in office through a very difficult time and thanked her for all her hard work.

Cllr de Launey said he was sorry the Mayor had not been able to achieve all her aspirations due to the impact of the Corona Virus restrictions. Nevertheless she had done a great job and he thanked her for her hard work.

Cllr Hosken said he thought Cllr Fairclough had carried out her duties with great dignity and had done well.

Cllr Gorse commented that over the last 3 weeks when things started to open up a little, the Mayor had been really busy making presentations all over Wellington. She thanked Cllr Fairclough for all her hard work.

Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said the Mayor had one hell of a year and had made the best of it. She had coped with great dignity doing her utmost in difficult circumstances and he thanked her for her hard work.

Councillor Fairclough thanked everyone for their kind words and received a round of applause.

04/21 Election of Deputy Mayor - Cllr Davis called for nominations for the Election of Deputy Mayor. Cllr Hosken proposed Cllr Roberts as Deputy Mayor for 2021-22 and was seconded by Cllr Alvey. There being no further nominations, members voted in favour of electing Cllr Roberts to serve as Deputy Mayor until the next Annual Meeting. Cllr Roberts said she felt honoured to accept the position and put on the Deputy Mayor's chain of office. She thanked everyone for electing her and received a round of applause.

05/21 Apologies – Apologies were accepted from Cllr U. Ahmed because of family matters.

06/21 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest forwarded at this point.

07/21 Election of Policy & Resources Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor *ex officio*) Cllr Davis called for nominations to serve on the Policy & Resources Committee. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the following Councillors serve on the Policy and Resources Committee until the next Annual Council Meeting. Cllrs: Hosken, Morris-Jones, Hall, Gorse, McClements, Carter and de Launey.

- 08/21 To Note the Personnel Committee as the 3 x Group Leaders** – Cllrs Hosken, Gorse and de Launey.
- 09/21 Election of the Independent Grievance Panel** – Cllrs Alvey, Ahmed and Cook were proposed, seconded and unanimously elected to serve on the panel with the Mayor as independent Chairman.
- 10/21 Election of Planning Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor & Deputy Mayor *ex officio*)**
Cllr Davis called for nominations to serve on the Planning Committee. Cllrs: Alvey, Hall, Jinks, de Launey, Luter, Latter and Cook were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve on the Planning Committee until the next Annual Council Meeting.
- 11/21 Election of the Events and Communications Committee (7 vacancies + Mayor and Deputy Mayor *ex officio*)** Cllr Davis called for nominations to serve on the above Committee. Cllrs: Tomlinson, Alvey, Hall, Pierce, Carter, Lowe and Cook were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve on the Events and Communications Committee until the next Annual Council meeting.
- 12/21 Election of active working groups and Town Council representatives on outside Bodies**
- a) Conservation Area Working Group-** Cllr Davis called for nominations for the Conservation Area Working Group. Cllrs Pierce, Tomlinson and Jinks were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve as Members of the Conservation Area Working Group until the next Annual Council Meeting.
- b) Car Parking Working Group -** Cllr Davis called for nominations for the Car Parking Working Group Cllrs: de Launey, McClements, Gorse, Roberts and Morris-Jones were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve as Members of the Car Parking Working Group until the next Annual Council Meeting.
- c) Climate Change Emergency Working Group –** Cllr Davis called for nominations to serve on the above committee; Cllrs Davis, Latter, Lowe, Alvey and Luter were proposed and seconded. There being no further nominations the above Councillors were duly elected to serve as members of the Climate Change Emergency Working Group until the next Annual Council Meeting.
- d) Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) - Wrekin Area Committee (WAC) (2 vacancies)-** Cllr: Davis called for nominations. Cllrs Alvey, Ahmed and Davis were proposed and seconded. Following a vote Cllrs Davis and Alvey were elected.
- e) Telford Bus Users Group (2 vacancies) -** Cllr Davis called for nominations; Cllr Roberts and Cllr Davis were proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations it was agreed Cllr Roberts and Cllr Davis should represent the Town Council on the Telford Bus Users Group.
- g) Walkers are Welcome-** Cllr Davis called for nominations, Cllr Pierce was proposed and duly seconded. There being no further nominations it was agreed that Cllr Pierce would represent the Town Council on Walkers are Welcome.
- 13/21 ICM / CAT Team -** Cllr Carter asked why it was not on the agenda to elect/appoint members to the CAT management team meetings to keep members informed. Cllr de Launey agreed this has not yet been sorted and proposed P&R look at representation to this committee. Cllr Carter commented on the amount of budget committed to the work of

the CAT team and proposed the three group leaders are elected as a working group to feed back to members of the town council. He was seconded by Cllr McClements who said this is a really important Committee and in her view it makes sense that the 3 group leaders form the committee with the Clerk as we need to get the communications right. Cllr de Launey said he was not convinced the group leaders are the most appropriate people and proposed the issue be taken to the Policy and Resources Committee for discussion. He was seconded by Cllr Morris Jones MBE. Cllr McClements said she felt uninformed and unaware when meetings take place and she did not know how to raise matters for the ICM/CAT to act upon. Cllr de Launey reminded members of previously agreed arrangements and appointments to the ICM meetings. Cllr Carter said this was a vitally important function affecting every ward member and we should not wait until July to resolve it as there are important issues that need tackling. The Clerk said the CAT team meetings had only just started and she would be introduced to the Locality Officer next week. T&W Officers have requested numbers appointed to the CAT management team are kept low and if we would like to change that representation we should take a further proposition to the CAT meeting. The following proposals were put to the vote.

Proposal 1: Cllr Carter proposed that the 3 group leaders are elected as representatives on the CAT Team Management meetings together with the Clerk with immediate effect. He was seconded by Cllr McClements. A vote was taken and the proposal was lost.

Proposal 2: Cllr de Launey proposed the membership of the CAT Team Management meetings be discussed at the next (June) P&R meeting and a proposal taken to the July Town Council Meeting. He was seconded by Cllr Roberts. A vote was taken and the proposal was upheld.

14/21 Festival Working Group – Cllr Gorse said she understood this working group is elected from the Events and Communications (E&C) committee. She expressed her concerns that membership of the Festival Working Group may only be sought from the E&C committee. This year there were only 2 members plus an officer on this working group and she suggested nominations should be taken from tonight's meeting as all councillors should made aware they can join this committee and have an input. Sdel it is a function of E&C who hold the budget to nominate the members of this working group and it can appoint external people. Therefore he felt it is not appropriate to appoint members of the Festival working group tonight. Cllr Lowe endorsed what Cllr de Launey said, adding the workload has been this year high and he felt that making appointments to the working group this evening were inappropriate. Cllr Roberts said the Festival was previously run through the Promotion and Liaison Committee and she was sad the way it had gone and hoped we could get interested volunteers back on board. Cllr Alvey said in his view it was a mistake to change things.

15/21 Cllr Jinks requested move to next business.

16/21 To Appoint the Internal Auditor for 2020/21- Cllr Davis called for a proposal from members. Cllr Hosken proposed Harjinder Atwal of HKA Accountax again be appointed as internal auditor for 2021/22, he was seconded by Cllr Alvey and the appointment was confirmed unanimously by members.

17/21 General Power of Competence – A comprehensive briefing note had been circulated to all members. The Clerk explained the council needed to confirm the following three conditions for eligibility to exercise the General Power of Competence:

Resolution: the council must resolve at a meeting that it meets the criteria for eligibility relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the clerk.

Electoral mandate: at the time the resolution is passed, at least two thirds of the Council must hold office as a result of being declared elected (i.e. not co-opted).

Qualified Clerk: At the time that the resolution is passed, the clerk must hold a recognised professional qualification (e.g. Certificate in Local Council Administration, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy) AND pass the 2012 CiLCA module relating to the General Power of Competence.

The Mayor read the following resolution to members:

Wellington Town Council resolves from 4th May 2021, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

As a result of satisfying the criteria it was proposed by Cllr Davis, 2nd by Cllr de Launey and agreed unanimously by the Council to pass the above resolution:

18/21 Receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2021 – It was Proposed: by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2021 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true and accurate record.

19/21 Matters Arising

- a) **Neighbourhood Planning** – Members attending the seminar were disappointed with the event which seemed to be mostly of interest to smaller parishes and an opportunity to ‘sell’ the services of the provider. Cllr Roberts wished to clarify the March minutes that implied she was in favour of a town plan for Wellington as this was not the case.
- b) **Communications Strategy and Protocol** - The Clerk had circulated documents for comments and asked that these are made by the next meeting of the Events and Communications committee.
- c) **Speed Indicator Device** - The Clerk reported information from the SID had been downloaded and sent to the Police and Highways dept. Cllr Jinks asked if the data could be used to support an application for a mini roundabout on the Whitchurch Road Dothill. Cllr Tomlinson said this location had already been raised with Highways with a request to install the mini roundabout with 106 funding. Cllr McClements requested a SID is placed at Churchill Road Arleston. The Clerk was asked to send the SID location list to all Councillors.
- d) **Reopening the Retail Sector**– The Clerk reported the planters for Church Road to Market Street are slightly delayed and would be delivered within the next 2 weeks. The installation of Wellington boots had been delayed because of questions about the catenary wires being able to support their weight. Cllr Morris-Jones commented he was surprised at the problems because the Christmas light were installed without problems.
- e) **Traffic Flow** – Cllr Jinks asked Cllr Carter for an update on the report from the consultants appointed in relation to re-opening the top of Church Street to traffic. Cllr Carter said there would be a meeting within the next 2 weeks to discuss the findings of the report and that money has been in T&W’s capital budget for the last 2 years to resurface the footpaths and roads this work was delayed because the Town Council had asked for a wider, more ambitious scheme for the area.

20/21 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

- a) **Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 06.04.21 & 27.04.21** – Cllr de Launey made the following comments;

- **Regeneration Board Report** - Cllr Carter said with reference to comments made at the Regeneration Board that he would ask the Clerk to circulate a list of grants given to show support delivered to businesses in the area.
- **Future Meeting Arrangements** - Cllr de Launey explained the Covid legislation that allowed remote meetings for local Town and Parish councils runs out on 7th May 2021. Local Government would therefore be returning to face to face meetings but would still need to take account of the social distancing / wearing masks and compliance with other Covid legislation which means finding a venue large enough to accommodate members, public and staff is a challenge. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE asked if the hearing loop would be in use. Cllr Jinks asked if other venues have been considered. The Clerk said schools had been approached but they were not opening their facilities to outsiders until instructed to do so by the Government. Other venues do not have the required hearing / social media equipment. The following proposal was made:
 - Full Council due on 8th June would be cancelled – the next meeting taking place on 13th July 2021 when hopefully all restrictions will be lifted
 - P&R would retain delegated power from Full Council until things return to 'normal'.
 - Committee meetings will be held face to face in the committee room and would observe the Covid rules.

Members were in agreement of the above proposal. Cllr Tomlinson said she had written to the MP to express her disappointment that Government had not made the appropriate arrangements to allow local Government to continue with virtual meetings.

- b) **Planning Committee 31.01.21 & 21.04.21** – Cllr Luter presented the minutes and no further comments were made. Cllr Alvey commended Cllr Luter for the excellent way he had taken over the Chairmanship of the planning committee.
- c) **Events and Communications Committee 31.03.21** – Cllr Davis presented the minutes and the following questions were asked.
 - Cllr Jinks said last year there was a lack of Christmas lights at Booklands. Additionally, it was stated the lights in Aleston were not put up in a timely manner. The contractor had been notified of the deficiencies and had given a response. An up to date list of lighting owned and in storage on behalf of the council had been drawn up and future installations will be discussed at the next E&C meeting.
 - Cllr Roberts expressed her disappointment that the newsletter did not carry photos of Councillors. She also asked for the costs of the newsletter to be sent to her.
- d) **Dothill Conservation Group meeting dated 30.04.21**- Cllr Tomlinson reported the group had their AGM and their customary walk around the reserve. The most notable problem was the impact of Ash die back. Nursery saplings were being cultivated as replacements and Idverde were being approached to help with watering.
- e) **Festival Working Group – 07.04.21** – Cllr Lowe gave an overview of the upcoming 25th Festival events which started on Friday 4pm with the Art Gallery. He encouraged members to listen to all the events and thanked Cllr Pierce and staff for all their hard work.
- f) **Climate Change Emergency Working Group meeting of 01.04.21** - Cllr Lowe said the wording on the minutes of Full Council were not as exactly specified by Surfers Against Sewage and therefore could not be accepted. He said the Town Council should be an enabler not try to deliver / achieve everything itself. Members discussed the problem of accepting the wording exactly at length and were unhappy about the possible future implications and commitment going forward. Cllr Jinks felt if we agree with the wording it would tie our hands in the future and she felt she could not agree. Cllr Pierce suggested we

should be led by the Borough and use their wording. Cllr Lowe said we are acting on the instructions of the Borough and that he would not like to delay this any further. Cllr Davis asked if the Clerk could research the wording from neighbouring parishes. It was proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members to ask the Clerk to research the wording of motions of other Town / Parish Councils and present findings to the July meeting.

21/21 Date of Next Meeting – was agreed as 13th July 2021

Chairman.....13th July 2021