

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr P. Fairclough



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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 commencing at 7.02 pm

Present

Cllr S. de Launey (SDL) Chairman	Cllr L. Carter (LC)	Cllr S. Hall (SH)
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE (PMJ)	Cllr M. Hosken (MH)	Cllr J. Gorse (JG)
Cllr A. McClements (AMc)		

In attendance – Cllr P. Fairclough, Cllr P. Davis, Andrew Roberts- Deputy Town Clerk and Karen Roper – Town Clerk.

13/20 Chairman's Welcome – Cllr. de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded members that proceedings are being live streamed on Facebook.

14/20 Apologies for Absence – There were no apologies for absence.

15/20 Declaration of Interest – There were no declarations of Interest made at this point.

16/20 Approval of minutes relating to the following meetings:-

6th October 2020 - Cllr Hosken proposed the minutes for acceptance as a true record, he was seconded by Cllr Gorse and members voted unanimously in favour.

13th October 2020 Extraordinary Meeting - Cllr Gorse proposed the minutes for acceptance as a true record, she was seconded by Cllr Hall and members voted unanimously in favour.

13th October 2020 Confidential Meeting – Cllr McClements proposed the minutes for acceptance as a true record, she was seconded by Cllr Gorse and members voted unanimously in favour.

17/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting dated 6th October 2020

a Speed Indicator Devices – The Clerk reported that the Deputy Clerk had successfully applied to the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund 2 speed indicator devices amounting to £6k. One of these had already been delivered to the Office.

b Gateway Signs – The Clerk reported the Gateway signs on the Dawley Road and Holyhead Road have been installed

- c **Obscured Sign** - Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said the Wellington sign in Apley was still covered by tree branches. The Clerk would request the foliage obscuring the sign on Grainger Drive / Apley Avenue is cut back by the WEST Team. Cllr Morris Jones said there were other areas where road signs are covered with foliage and there should be a programme of cutting back.
- d **Regeneration Board** – The Chairman reported the next meeting would be held on 25th November 2020.
- e **West Team** – The Deputy Clerk had circulated a report on the work undertaken by the Team. He reported that local people are complimenting them on their work all of the time. The Chairman invited members to contact the Deputy Clerk if there was any works that needed attention within their wards.
- f **Clifton Site** – The Clerk reported the enforcement officer had confirmed he had written to the owners and asked them to carry out works such as clearing weeds and removal of graffiti by the end of November.

18/20 Finance – Members had received papers, Cllr Hosken proposed the finance reports referenced 6a – 6c be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Gorse and members voted unanimously in favour.

- **Budget** – The Chairman said the first draft would be presented to the December meeting
- **Grants Panel** – Cllr Gorse said she had difficulty in joining the virtual meeting and requested the word 'not' is added to the 2nd page it changes the intended meaning of the report . Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said he often has problems joining meetings but if the link is sent or resent 5-10 mins before the meeting it seems to work better for him

19/20 Terms of Reference - The Chairman explained the draft document sets out the responsibilities of this committee. Cllr Gorse proposed this is considered over the next month and on the agenda for the December meeting, this was seconded by Cllr McClements and agreed by members.

20/20 Traffic Management Issues

- **Ercall Lane** - Cllr Hosken said the suggested changes had been made, Cllr Carter had given some great advice so the situation had improved and was now reasonably successful.
- **Church & Market Street** – It was reported that Market Street had been a problem for many years. A meeting had been held with the Chairman, Clerk and Ward member, Highways, and consultants, Amey / Balfour Beattie to look providing a long term solution to problems at Rowlands Gate, Haygate/Bridge Road, Market and Church Street. The Consultants will be seeking the views of businesses and the public. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said he felt the restrictions on Church Street are a waste of time and have made the area more dangerous because of poor visibility and diversions through Charlton Street which is generally made narrower by parking on both sides of the road. Cllr de Launey said the budget was there for Market Street to be upgraded. Cllr Gorse said she had seen traffic going through Market Street using it as a cut through which was causing problems for pedestrians trying to keep socially distanced and damaging buildings. Councillor Carter said that businesses had wanted to maintain access so the challenge for now was about slowing traffic down. The Consultants would forward their suggestions for consideration hopefully by the end of the year, in the meantime communications and signage would be improved and the Police would monitor the situation.

- 21/20 Climate Change Emergency Group** – The Chairman said consideration needs to be given to the administrative resource needed for this new committee estimated at 6 hours per week.
- 22/20 Events and Communications Committee** – Cllr Davis reported the planned events such as Remembrance and Christmas Lights Switch On will not be held physically and will be done virtually on social media / websites. He requested a budget sum is allocated to the Committee so that they can work within the parameters set. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said he felt it was sensible to allocate money to allow the Committee to make their own decisions. Cllr de Launey said that the new budget would include a sum for the Committee and this would be available from 1st April 2021. In the meantime he would meet with Cllr Davis as Chairman of the Committee to discuss the interim situation. Cllr Davis thanked members for this positive step forward.
- 23/20 Tribute to George Evans** – Cllr de Launey said at the last meeting we had discussion about renaming the Peace Garden as ‘The George Evans Peace Garden’. The Clerk and the Chairman had met virtually with Paul Evans, George’s son. Paul’s view is that George was a public character so he understood the need to have a public memorial and was in agreement with the name change. Toby Neal had written in the Telford Journal that the Town Council had ‘blundered in’ making decisions without consulting the family. This was obviously not the case and Paul Evans will be consulted again when ideas have been consolidated. The Clerk and the Chairman had a meeting with a local sculptor on Thursday and would report back to the next meeting. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE suggested we install an inscribed bench where George used to sit to admire his Peace Garden. All ideas will be brought back to the December meeting for discussion.
- 24/20 Toilet Contract** - The Deputy Clerk said he had been carrying out daily inspections and the service provision had generally been good. A review meeting had been held today and Healthmatic had reported that they had not experienced any problems. It was agreed the toilets would remain open through the November lock down. Cllr Morris-Jones MBE said he felt it was important that the toilets remain open for reasons of hygiene.
- 25/20 Lock Down** – The Clerk reported the building will be closed for the next month.
- 26/20 Next Virtual Meeting Date** – Was agreed as 1st December 2020 and would include consideration of the draft budget. The meeting closed at 20.03 hrs

Chairman.....1st December 2020