

# Wellington Town Council

**Town Mayor**  
Cllr P. Fairclough



**Town Clerk**  
**KAREN ROPER**  
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## FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the virtual Full Council Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 commencing at 7.01 pm.

### Present:

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

**In attendance:** Rev T. Carter, Police Inspector Mike Phillips, Andrew Roberts – Deputy Clerk and Karen Roper Town Clerk.

<b>32/20</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b> – The Mayor welcomed everyone to this virtual Town Council meeting and confirmed it was being live streamed. She then invited Rev. Carter to take prayers.</p> <p>Rev Carter thanked the Council Team, in particular Caroline Farrell and Paul Davis for their fantastic efforts creating a virtual online Remembrance Sunday and Armistice day event. He asked members to pray the vaccine announced today is successful and for those that are feeling lonely, anxious, and for key workers, teachers care workers and police officers. The Mayor thanked Rev. Carter.</p>
<b>33/20</b>	<p><b>Housekeeping</b> – The Clerk requested everyone goes on mute and that the Deputy Clerk would identify / invite those wishing to speak.</p>
<b>34/20</b>	<p><b>Police Inspector Michael Phillips (MP)</b>- The Mayor warmly welcomed Inspector Philips who said he was really proud to be serving here in Wellington as Inspector after 12 years of serving as a Constable then Sargeant. He said he was aware of a strong sense of local community pride and gave an overview of the current Safer Neighbourhood Team working across Wellington and Donnington. Members asked the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Tomlinson asked if cover is offered for PCSO's as a telephone contact number recently given to residents was not answered due to maternity leave. MP suggested that if residents do not get a response by telephone that they email the local team where messages are picked up every day. He would be guided by Councillors regarding the best solution for the public.</li> <li>• Cllr Davis asked what the top challenges across the patch were and what Councillors and / or the public can do to help. MP said he had started working in Wellington during the challenge of the floods in February which was followed by the pandemic. Enforcing the Covid rules was currently most challenging for the team. He said that Councillors and public can help by reporting problems to 101.</li> </ul>

	<p>Communication improvements using local surgeries, social media and newsletters were being implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Jinks highlighted the upsurge of beggars in the town centre especially at weekends and asked what was being done to resolve this. MP said these people were arriving by train and car, they were not local people. He was working in partnership with the Housing Team to find a solution and the SNT team were dealing with anti-social behaviour and other offences as a priority. Cllr Jinks said some youngsters were using Dohill Nature Reserve to meet and flout Covid rules. MP asked that if anti-social behaviour, flouting of Covid rules or criminal damage is suspected that this is reported through 101.</li> <li>• Cllr McClements welcomed MP back to Wellington and thanked him for the regular newsletter received in Arlestone and Colledge Wards. She asked how the ICM could improve feedback to the council. MP said the ICM had just reviewed its terms of reference and he would follow up to ensure communications were improved.</li> <li>• Cllr Hosken said he felt that the 'Special' Police Constabulary were not visible in Wellington and they used to do a fantastic job. MP said he was not seeing numbers coming through, the Specials tend to be deployed in the Telford Town Centre and he would check up on numbers.</li> <li>• Cllr Lowe said there is currently a one way system from takeaways in Bridge Street onto Queen Street which was being flouted and he requested Officers advise motorists to abide by the regulations.</li> </ul> <p>The Mayor thanked Inspector Phillips for attending this evenings' meeting.</p>
<b>35/20</b>	<b>Apologies</b> – Were received from Cllrs Carter for work commitments, Cllr Brittain, is unwell and Cllr Alvey due to hospitalisation. The apologies were accepted.
<b>36/20</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> – Cllr McClements declared an interest on the Expression of Interest dated 4 <sup>th</sup> November at the New College site.
<b>37/20</b>	<b>To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b> - Cllr Ahmed proposed the minutes for acceptance and was seconded by Cllr McClements, members voted unanimously to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.
<b>38/20</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clifton Site</b> –</li> <li>• The Clerk said the enforcement officer had sent a letter asking the owners to remove weeds, vegetation and graffiti by the end of November. Cllr Jinks asked what would happen if they did not do so? Cllr Tomlinson said enforcement officer was very good at getting the required response from owners.</li> <li>• <b>Regeneration Board</b> – The date of the next meeting had been deferred to 25<sup>th</sup> November so a report on the Towns Fund Investment application could be received.</li> <li>• <b>Allan Frost Presentation</b> – The Clerk said the Mayor had physically presented the key to Allan prior to lockdown and this has been recorded in the November edition of the 'Our Wellington' newsletter.</li> <li>• <b>Conservation Working Group</b> – Cllr Tomlinson said a good meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October which started with a walk about. The following points were made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work has been curtailed due to Covid</li> <li>○ 500 Ash trees needed to be removed because of disease</li> <li>○ A container to store equipment is being sought</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

39/20

**To receive and note the minutes of the following Wellington Town Council Committees.**

**a) Policy and Resources Committee dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020** – Councillor de Launey highlighted the following points from the minutes:

- **Speed Indicator Device (SID)** – Cllr de Launey said that the PCC had agreed to fund 2 additional SID's. One unit had been delivered and another would be ordered. The Town Council will fund the cost of installing additional posts in areas where lampposts are deemed not strong enough to hold the units.
- **Regeneration Board**- Cllr Davis asked for confirmation of the date of the next meeting. The Clerk confirmed the date as 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 1pm.
- **Draft Budget** – The initial version will be presented to the December meeting and the final will be presented to Full Council in January 2021.
- **Terms of Reference Draft** – P&R had received an initial draft setting out their powers and responsibilities which will be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Traffic System in Ercall Lane** – Cllr deLauney reported that following the meeting with Adam Brookes, improvements had been made in line with Councillors' suggestions resolving most of the previously highlighted problems.
- **Church Street / Market Street** - Cllr de Launey reported on a meeting held with consultants who were tasked to offer a number of options to solve the issues of how best to manage traffic through the town. Particular problem areas were highlighted around Church / Market Street and solving problems in Rowlands Gate. He reminded members that there was a proposal some time ago to stop the traffic through the 90 degree bend onto Market Street between 10am – 4pm but traders were not in favour. Cllr Morris-Jones said he was pleased to hear something was being done and said parking outside the Orbit was getting worse. Cllr Lowe said that the yellow lines and flashes on Station Road by the Orbit were faded and need to be replaced.

Cllr Gorse suggested that signage could be improved in relation to the shared space. She added that lorries are regularly knocking into the buildings causing damage and any solution will need to satisfy pedestrians, traders and councillors.

- **George Evans Tribute** – A meeting had been with Paul Evans, George's Son who had agreed that George was a public figure and therefore understood the wish for a public tribute. Meetings were taking place to look at something in the Peace Garden. Cllr Jinks reminded members that a suggestion had previously been made for the installation of a bench inscribed as 'all friends around the Wrekin,' situated where George would like to sit and look at the garden.
- **Toilets** – A meeting had been held on Friday with Healthmatic. The Parade toilets will be kept open throughout the lockdown and are being kept to a good standard although it was acknowledged that footfall is lower than usual because of the pandemic. Cllr Morris-Jones said it was good that arrangements at the Parade toilets were working well although he was aware this did not seem to be case with the Bowring. Cllr de Launey said as the Café owners were now reliant on the public toilets for their business use, their expectations were understandably higher than would normally be anticipated. The Clerk said the Deputy Clerk had been working hard to resolve the issue and would continue to do so until the problems are resolved. Cllr Jinks asked the Clerk for a copy of the lease.

**b) Planning Committee 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020** - Cllr Luter presented the minutes, no comments were made.

**Planning Committee 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020** – Cllr Luter presented the minutes. Cllr Tomlinson thanked the committee for supporting her opposition to application ref: TWC/2020/0915 erection of a Care Home on Land Opposite Dothill Primary School, Severn Drive, Dothill in favour of the land remaining green space.

	<p><b>c) Events and Communications Committee Meeting dated 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 –</b>  Cllr Davis presented the report which had been previously circulated. He said the Remembrance video had reached 10,000 people and there were increasing numbers of followers on facebook. Lessons had been learned and the virtual Christmas Lights switch on was the next event to be drip fed to audiences in advance.</p>
<b>40/20</b>	<p><b>Climate Change Emergency Group Meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020-</b> Cllr Lowe said not all 5 members had managed to be present at a meeting. The Town Council had reviewed its current working practices and made appropriate changes such as recycling paper and plastic. Cllr Jinks reminded members that Dothill reserve is losing 500 Ash trees and that there was a possibility of Telford and Wrekin offering suitable replacements. Cllr Lowe had attended the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP) which covers the whole of Shropshire and aims to influence public thinking. He felt that Wellington is behind the curve and work to win hearts and minds needs to be undertaken.</p>
<b>41/20</b>	<p><b>Our Wellington Magazine –</b> The Clerk said this was being printed and was booked for delivery on 16<sup>th</sup> November, Cllr Davis requested the final draft.</p>
<b>42/20</b>	<p><b>Covid Update-</b> The Clerk informed members that staff had no access to the office during the current lockdown.</p>
<b>43/20</b>	<p><b>Vote of Thanks to all Wellington Groups and Businesses who are Supporting Free School Meals -</b> Cllr Gorse proposed Wellington Town Council officially thanks all those involved in trying to ensure that children do not go hungry. Cllr Pierce said that the Wrekin View Primary School and the Community Café were offering free meals to combat hunger. Cllr McClements said the Interfaith Group and associated Telford organisations had worked together to provide a breakfast package every Saturday for those that are in need. She congratulated Marcus Rashford for influencing the decisions of Government. Cllr Davis said it was good to see colleagues, businesses and volunteers pulling together. Cllr Cook requested a letter of thanks be sent to the Bowring Cafe owners for all their help. Cllr Tomlinson said the Covid community food group were organising another drive through on Saturday and another on 5<sup>th</sup> December between 10am – 2pm to provide food for people at Christmas.</p>
<b>44/20</b>	<p><b>SALC AGM –</b> The Clerk reminded members the SALC AGM would be going ahead on 20<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm online. The Chairman and Clerk were already booked in, Cllr Davis asked the Clerk to book him a place.</p>
<b>45/20</b>	<p><b>The next meeting date would be held at 7.00pm on 8<sup>TH</sup> December 2020</b></p>

Chairman.....8<sup>th</sup> December 2020