

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Anthony Lowe
B.A (HONS)



Town Clerk
KAREN ROPER
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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 5th November 2019 commencing at 7.07pm.

Cllr S. de Launey (SDL) Chairman	Cllr. P. Morris-Jones MBE (PMJ) Vice Chairman	Cllr J. Gorse (JG)	Cllr S. Hall (SH)
Cllr M. Hosken	Cllr F. Burns	Cllr L. Carter	

In attendance – Cllr A. Lowe (AL) and Cllr P. Fairclough both (ex Officio) and Karen Roper-Town Clerk (KR).

72/19 Chairman - Cllr de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

73/19 Apologies for Absence – There were no apologies.

74/19 Declaration of Interest – None were declared at this point.

75/19 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2019 – The minutes were proposed by Cllr de Launey, seconded by Cllr Gorse and RESOLVED by members as a true and accurate record.

76/19 Matters Arising

- a. **Cost Analysis for Franking Machine** – The Clerk tabled a report detailing the costs and the settlement figure amounting to £597.20 exclusive of VAT in order to cancel down the contract. Members referred this back to the Clerk as an administrative decision.
- b. **Personnel Update** – The Chairman said a suitable candidate had been selected unanimously by the members and staff involved in the interviews. She had been invited to discuss details at 9.30am 6th November. Cllr Gorse asked that all Councillors are sent brief details prior to her starting in the role.
- c. **Notification of Idverde meeting** – Members were informed of the meeting to be held at 1.00pm Friday 8th November 2019. Cllr Morris-Jones suggested that Councillors are issued with a list of phone numbers for emergency 24 hr cover, 7 days a week. Cllr Carter suggested a modern means of communication is promoted to help people to help themselves through the Telford App. The electronic noticeboard could also be used and the Clerk was asked to follow this up. Cllr Hosken said we must be careful not to lose the old culture of being able to report things to Town Council Staff.
- d. **End of Year Accounts 2018/19** – The Clerk reported that the 30 day public inspection period finished on Friday 25th October and so far no challenge had been received.

77/19 Finance

Agenda items, 6a to 6d were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Cllr Carter and approved by members.

- **ERDF Project 329** – The Clerk reported she had received a claim for £2,000 Of match funding from 2016. Members asked that the matter is investigated further.

78/19 Grant Funding Report – It was proposed by Cllr Hosken 2nd by Cllr Morris-Jones and agreed by members to accept the report as a true record and that the recipients be invited to the Full Town Council meeting on 10th December.

79/19 Speed Indicator Device – The Clerk reported that the PCC had been invoiced for the grant funding. The Highways Authority and the Police had been asked for the most suitable sites to place the unit. Members were given a report and map of placements, Cllr Gorse asked to add Bayley Road to the suggested sites. Final decisions were deferred due to lack of information around costs of installation and moving the unit from site to site.

80/19 Defibrillator Units – The Clerk had issued a report giving details about the 2 units and locations registered with the Ambulance service. The Clerk was commended on the report. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr de Launey that the offers of ward funding from Cllr Bill Tomlinson and Cllr Karen Tomlinson are accepted and the Town Council make up the difference and initially place accessible units in Brooklands and Shawbirch. The Council then move to install units in other areas in subsequent financial years. This was 2nd by Cllr Morris–Jones and agreed by members. The Clerk was asked to contact Robin Glover to request that the Leisure Centre unit is registered and placed on the outside wall of the building. Members did not feel it was necessary to invite Heart Start to a meeting to demonstrate the units.

81/19 Regeneration Board

Members had received the written report and the Chairman suggested inviting Sally Themans to the January Full Council meeting to update the Council. Members were in agreement.

- **Shopwatch Disc** – The Clerk explained the work of the Police Crime Prevention and CCTV Officers taking place in the town. They were visiting every business offering help and advice on how to prevent theft and protect themselves from theft in the run up to Christmas. They also wanted to offer every business the opportunity to sign up to the disc. The disc is a communication tool linking businesses, sharing information and problems as well as identifying individual shop lifters. Cllr Carter said the Town Council should be making good use of the disc as a communication tool and supported spending £750.00 to buy the disc and software enabling every business to participate. Members agreed.

82/19 Prostate Cancer Support - Members were asked to consider running a further testing day in April/May 2020. It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Hosken to support a further testing day at a cost of £3k.

83/19 Bowring Park Lease – A copy of the lease had been circulated to all members. The Chairman reported that we are bound by the head lease and therefore cannot backdate the new lease so the starting date would be when everything is agreed. He said he could not see any practical issues for the Council within the document as is and then gave the following report.

This year to 31st March 2020 the total impact on the Town Council’s budget is £5195.00, this figure includes rates electricity, water and insurance. The 5 year deal negotiated with the tenants is that for the first year they would pick up the electricity charges and rates leaving a net cost to the council of £645.00 (water rates and building insurance only). The second year would see a rental paid of £1,000, 3rd £2,000 and 4th £2,500 and 5th £3,000, all of which would be contributing to the Council’s income from year 2 onwards. There will be a break clause after 3 years and the Town Council is unable to give the Tenants written assurance to renew at the end of the 5 year term because of terms in the Head Lease. Cllr de Launey has therefore given verbal assurances that the Town Council would not wish to

offer a new lease to anyone else provided the terms of the existing lease had not been breached.

Members asked the following questions:

- Do they have the right to sell the lease on? Cllr de Launey said there is nothing in the current lease about this, no assignment option, if it happened, we would then be able to vet the new tenants.
- What about the cost of the Solicitor? – this is unknown at present
- What about the use of the outdoor space? – this is between the tenants and Telford and Wrekin
- What about the toilets? – the toilets are not included in the lease, our staff still service these but this may change in the future.
- What about equipment hire? – this is not included in the lease and would be for discussion outside of the lease agreement. The Clerk was asked to investigate where the £300.00 worth of donated bowling balls had gone.
- Opening times – the café is currently open 7 days a week, the times are not stipulated in the lease.

It was proposed by Cllr Burns, seconded by Cllr Morris–Jones and agreed unanimously by all members to go forward with the lease and arrangements as presented.

84/19 Car Parking Working Party– The minutes were sent to members. Cllr de Launey reported briefly on the meeting held stating that the Borough had not pursued with the long term parking scheme presently because they were keen to see what impact the decimalisation of parking will have on the situation. Cllr Carter said he felt this approach was exactly right because there will be displacement into side streets.

85/19 ICM Report – members had been issued with a report from today’s meeting and the following comments were made.

- The Deputy Mayor said she had recently visited Paris, London, Bournemouth and Reading stating their homelessness problem was far worse than here.
- She had also interacted with a homeless person in Telford and offered details of where to get help.
- Cllr Morris-Jones said we have to help them to help themselves and if Maninplace and the Borough are providing the services they should use it.
- Cllr Burns said he felt the ICM was a very positive meeting today and said the campaign about to be launched by the Borough is to offer **a hand up not a hand out**.

86/19 Gateway Signs.- Cllr Burns presented the sign mock up which was sent to all members last month, the Clerk confirmed that she had not received any comments so it is assumed that he design has been accepted. Members were given a map indicating the positioning of the signs and comments from Borough Council Officers expressing concerns about the public perception of where they relate to. One example was Shawbirch, residents consider they live in Shawbirch not Wellington.

There was a debate and the following comments were made.

- A Wellington sign in Arleston could cause confusion/controversy/comments
- There is no sign in Shawbirch at the boundary with Admaston
- Longden Road is another area where the sign is needed
- If there is a boundary review it was agreed that the signs can just be moved
- All agreed that something needs to be done
- So far the quotation is £6,600 and the Borough have not indicated they would contribute
- Cllrs Carter and Cook had promised £1,200 ward funding towards this project – the Clerk was asked to find out if this had been paid.

The mayor commented that the cost of installing signs in Shawbirch might be controversial.

Cllr Gorse proposed that the signs were most needed at Bennetts Bank and by the Princess Royal Hospital so position no 4 should be amended. This was 2nd by Cllr Hosken.

Cllr Gorse amended the proposal to look at the cost implications between ordering one sign or all 7. All voted in favour.

87/10

Matters for Information Only.

- Cllr Burns proposed that the Mayoral photographs be moved into the Council Chamber and was seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE
- Cllr Burns proposed the flag pole should be used more and that a 'Wellington' flag with the coat of arms be priced. This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones MBE

88/19

To agree date and time of the next meeting as Tuesday 3rd December 2019 at 7.00pm

Chairman.....3rd December 2019