

# Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor  
Cllr P. Fairclough



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## POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 27th April 2021 commencing at 7.00pm.

**Present** - Cllr S. de Launey (SDL) - Chairman, Cllr S. Hall (SH), Cllr M. Hosken (MH), Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE (PMJ), Cllr J. Gorse (JG),

**Also In attendance** – Cllr P. Fairclough ex officio, and A. Roberts – Deputy Town Clerk.

- 101/20 Chairman's Welcome** – Cllr. de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was being live streamed on Facebook. He also wished to thank Members for attending at the meeting a week earlier than normal, so that the Annual Council Meeting could be held on a remote basis prior to the current regulations expiring on 7 May 2021.
- 102/20 Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Cllrs L Carter, A McClements, P Davis and Karen Roper – Town Clerk. The apologies were noted and agreed.
- 103/20 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Morris-Jones declared a non-financial interest in Wellington Orbit.
- 104/20 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the meeting dated 6th April 2021** – The minutes were proposed by Cllr Hosken as a true and accurate record, Cllr Gorse seconded this and all members voted in favour.
- 105/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting dated 6th April 2021**
- a George Evans Tribute** – The Deputy Clerk reported that a source for the procurement of a suitable rock was being identified and that following this a meeting would be held with the immediate family.
  - b Speed Indicator Device** – The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the SIDs were currently located on the Whitchurch Road adjacent to St Marks Drive and Arleston Lane adjacent to Toll Road. It was further reported that the recent data had been downloaded and forwarded to members, with the further intention of submitting the same to Telford & Wrekin Council. In answer to an enquiry as to further locations. Members were advised that the Whitchurch Road SID would be moved to Glade Way, Shawbirch but that a further location would be identified for the SID located at Arleston Lane. In connection with the procurement of a third unit it was confirmed that this had not been ordered as the weight of the device prevented delivery due to the previous lockdown, however now that the Leisure Centre and Library had reopened delivery was possible. Members were also informed that the West Mercia PCC would be approached in relation to the grant application that had been submitted for further units.
  - c Update from 365 email accounts for members** – Members were advised that there was nothing to update on this matter following the previous meeting of the Committee.
  - d To note the next meeting date of the Climate Change Emergency Group** – the next meeting was noted to take place on 13th May 2021.

- e **Communications Strategy and Protocol** – Members were reminded to ensure that any comments were submitted in early course.

**106/20 Finance** – Members had received papers, Cllr Hosken proposed the finance reports referenced 6a – 6d be accepted, seconded by Cllr Gorse. Members voted unanimously in favour of acceptance of the financial reports referenced 6a-d.

**107/20 To receive an oral report from the Chairman relating to the Grant Panel Meeting that had been held prior to this meeting** – The Chairman reported on the proceedings of the previous Grants Panel meeting that had been held earlier. Grants had been proposed to be awarded to Wellington Orbit in the sum of £800 (for the installation of a satellite feed) and to Wellington LA21 Group in the sum of £250 (for their support of their activities).

**108/20 To receive a report from the Chairman relating to the meeting of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 20th April 2021** – The Chairman provided a general update on the meeting of the Personnel Committee that had meet on 20th April 2021, and their recommendations. It was noted that the minutes of the meeting would be made available on a confidential basis, if requested by any member. The recommendations were proposed by Cllr deLauney, seconded by Cllr Gorse and approved, accordingly.

**109/20 Regeneration Board Meeting of 21st April 2021** – Cllr de Launey gave the following update to members. The minutes of the meeting had been circulated. The following items were noted:

- It was still believed that the Towns Fund would still proceed and that the 7 May 2021 had been identified for the submission of any further additional information.
- That an allocation of £1million had been announced in relation to the support of any arts projects within the borough to assist in regeneration and that perhaps the Wellington Orbit may well be interested in securing an element of this sum.
- Part of the £1m upfront funding from the Towns Fund had been used by the borough council to assist with the renovation works required on the Planet of Beauty building.
- Whilst there had been a general disappointment in progressing the re-opening of the high streets, some actions had been undertaken but others would be progressed in time for the further lockdown relaxations on the 17 May 2021.
- It was noted that there had been an increase in initial business enquiries within the Town, which was seen as been of some encouragement.

Cllr Morris-Jones requested that additional support should be provided particularly towards the re-introduction of smaller retail opportunities. By way of response Cllr deLauney stated that for example if WTC perhaps considered the future purchase of retail premises, by way of example that could be sub-divided then perhaps the type of retailers envisaged by Cllr Morris-Jones could be supported. Cllr Gorse commented that T&W officers were very committed to the future re-generation of the whole area and were committed in supporting all of the Borough Towns. Cllr deLauney commented finally that consideration was being given to re-titling the Board to a Partnership in order to re-inforce the partnership approach that was being taken by T&W and WTC.

**110/20 Events and Communications Committee** – due to the absence from the meeting of Cllr Davis, this item was postponed. It was noted that the minutes of this particular meeting would be circulated to all members in due course.

**111/20 Community Action Team** – The Chairman invited Cllr Morris-Jones to report on the meeting that had been held, the notes of which had been circulated. Cllr Morris-Jones emphasised the need that all incidents should be reported so that the necessary actions to resolve such matters could be resolved. He indicated that the CAT meeting had provisionally agreed to purchase two mobile CCTV cameras that could be deployed. Following a discussion it was unclear as to what had been provisionally agreed and the Chairman agreed to refer the matter back to the Clerk, and that the matter would be referred to the June meeting of P&R, this action was agreed.

- 112/20 To consider installation of a door entry system from Walker Street** – this item was postponed, as no further information had been received from T&W.
- 113/20 To receive a report on the work of the WEST team** – The Deputy Clerk reported on the activities of the Team since the previous meeting. Members and members of the public were requested to advise on any such works that could be undertaken by the WEST team. During a conversation it was noted that the intention of the team was that they would be shared throughout the parish area. Cllr Gorse requested that photos were taken of their activities, in order to publicise their activities and it was confirmed that this would be done. It was noted that the Team continues to receive many positive comments for the work that they undertake.
- 114/20 To consider the following proposal from Cllr Gorse –**

*a) I propose to keep to the original proposal to hold the AGM on Tuesday 4th May where the new Mayor, new Deputy Mayor and all committees are elected for 2021-2022. The names of Councillors on committees can be amended later.*

Cllr deLauney explained the background to this element on the grounds that the intention was to move the AGM of the Town Council, in order to accommodate the current meeting regulations that permitted remote meetings. It was agreed that the meeting would follow the usual format i.e. the election of the Town Mayor and Deputy together with the election of the town Council Committees. He did acknowledge that questions had been raised with him that this would mean that the meeting would be taking place prior to the Haygate by-election scheduled for Thursday 6 May. Following further consideration it was noted that any Committee membership amendments could always be made following the AGM – this was agree – this acceptance was noted by members.

*b) The Mayor can be nominated to a committee as a voting member by amending Standing Orders*

Cllr deLauney invited Cllr Gorse to address the committee on this element. Cllr Gorse commented that she was seeking a change to the standing orders that subject to Council approval that following the anticipated election of Cllr Davis, Deputy Mayor to Town Mayor she requested that he should be allowed to be elected as a voting member of for example Events & Communications Committee. She indicated that elections to the Town Council Committees had only been undertaken last September and she was fearful of his work and input would be lost. Following a general discussion it was agreed that this would be possibly prejudicial to his position as Town Mayor and that continuing as ex officio his input to any Committee of the Town Council would not be lost. Cllr Gorse further commented that Standing Orders permitted such a change and that she was only seeking this request as a one-off event.

The proposal was formally proposed by Cllr Gorse, and seconded by Cllr deLauney on being put to the vote – element (a) was approved and element (b) was not approved.

- 115/20 To approve the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 4th May 2021** – The Clerk had circulated a draft agenda for the meeting to be held on 4th May. This was accordingly noted.
- 116/20 To approve Arrangements for the Town Assembly Meeting to be held on 5th May 2021** – The Clerk had circulated a draft agenda for the meeting to be held on 5th May. This was accordingly noted.
- 117/20 Future meeting arrangements** – Cllr deLauney outlined that at present it was still unclear as to whether the regulations permitting remote meetings would continue beyond 7 May 2021. The current assumption would be that the regulations would not be extended further so that consideration would need to be made towards the reversion to pre-regulation meetings. Cllr deLauney was concerned about the holding of a Full Council meeting in

June 2021, as it could not physically be held, subject to the current Covid requirements – in that event he envisaged that it would not be possible to hold a physical meeting of Full Council until July 2021. He did indicate that all other Committee meetings of the Council would need to physically meet, with the exception of Working Groups etc. These meetings could be accommodated in the Committee Room, subject to a maximum attendance of 10 persons. He accordingly proposed the revised arrangements and this was seconded by Cllr Hosken and accordingly approved.

The meeting was advised of the current background in relation to the current regulations and that initial work inviting other venues to be approached to allow physical meetings to be able to proceed had been commenced. However, it was reported that one venue had responded that they were taking no external bookings until after the 21 June 2021. Cllr deLauney further commented that further consideration would be required in relation to the future livestreaming of meetings and whether these would be audio only or on an audio/video basis but that this could be considered at a future date.

Chairman.....1st June 2021