

# Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor  
Cllr P. Davis



Town Clerk  
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## POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the face to face meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 at Civic Offices and commencing at 7.00pm.

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

**Also In attendance – Cllr D. Roberts ex officio. Cllrs A Lowe and P Fairclough, K. Roper Town Clerk.**

- 40/21 Welcome and introductory comments** – Cllr. de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 41/21 Variation of the Agenda** – The Chairman asked members to move item 11 to the end of the agenda and take in closed session excluding the press and public.
- 42/21 Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies received from members of the Committee but the Mayor, as ex officio gave his apologies.
- 43/21 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.
- 44/21 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021** – The minutes were proposed by Cllr Hall as a true and accurate record, she was seconded by Cllr Gorse and all members voted in favour. Cllr Morris-Jones said his apologies were given but not recorded.
- 45/21 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021**
- a George Evans Tribute** – The Clerk reported that a meeting is being organised with Idverde to discuss the best way of transporting the rock.
  - b Speed Indicator Device** – The Clerk reported that the SIDs were still situated in Glade Way and Apley Avenue. A third SID unit had been delivered. Members discussed the usefulness of the units and said they were often not working and people took no notice of them. The Clerk said the problem is mostly that the batteries need recharging and it is helpful that people notify staff when they are no longer working. Cllr Roberts said the units provide a reminder to most law abiding citizens so they do work. Cllr Carter said that ultimately enforcement tickets were the answer and the Police should be enforcing. Cllr Hosken agreed more Police officers are needed. Cllr Gorse suggested the Police Inspector is invited to the next meeting of P&R. Cllr Carter proposed John Campion the Police and Crime Commissioner is invited to the next P&R meeting as he felt he would be better able to answer the questions from members. He was seconded by Cllr McClements and members were in agreement.
  - c Regeneration Meeting** – The Chairman reported the planned July Regeneration Board meeting had been cancelled because information about the Towns Investment Fund would not be available until September. A letter had been received and would be circulated to members from Mark Pritchard MP explaining in general terms the funding and support for

local business. Cllr Roberts commented that it feels like the Town Council have zero input into how the money is spent. Cllr de Launey explained the structure had been set up by Government creating a Town Fund Board which makes the decisions.

- 46/21 Finance** – Members had received the papers in advance of the meeting. Cllr Hosken proposed the finance reports referenced 6 a-d be accepted, Cllr Hall seconded him and members voted unanimously in favour of acceptance of the financial reports.
- 47/21 Barclays Bank** – The Clerk had circulated a letter from Barclay Bank explaining the reasons for the branch closure. Cllr Morris-Jones asked that the Deputy Clerk investigate moving the Town Council bank account to the TSB. It was agreed this item be on the September agenda.
- 48/21 Eternal Auditor and accounting records for the year ending 31st March 2021** - The Clerk reported all of the papers have been sent to the external auditor and the public inspection period is running from 16<sup>th</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- 49/21 Events and Communications** – Cllr Carter reported the Committee had agreed a one year extension to the current Christmas lighting contract and a tendering process would take place in 2022 once the work is done on Market Street. He thanked staff for the excellent events being delivered in the Bowring Park attracting large numbers of children during the holidays. The weekend high street events were also successful and were attracting people into the town.
- 50/21 Community Action Team** – The Clerk had circulated the reports. Cllr Carter said there was a worrying focus on the town centre which was creating a displacement of anti-social behaviour and a plan for the outlying areas needs to be created.
- 51/21 Cyclist Dismount Signs** – The Chairman invited Cllr Lowe to address the meeting. The Clerk had distributed photographs / examples of signs to members. Cllr Lowe explained to members that he had made substantial efforts over a long period to get appropriate signs installed. He had estimated that 16 unambiguous signs were needed to cover all entrances to the pedestrianised area. Cllr Morris-Jones said that even when events are taking place in the Square, cyclists and e Scooters are dangerously riding at speed through the central area and were likely to cause a serious incident. Members agreed there was a problem. Cllr Carter said the responsibility for enforcement could change from the Police to Enforcement Officers but this will need to be funded. Members agreed the Enforcement Officers will need to take responsibility because of the abuse and threats made when Councillors or members of the public try to intervene and stop perpetrators. Cllr Hosken proposed the signs are investigated further, he was seconded by Cllr Morris – Jones and all members were in agreement.
- 52/21 Queens Platinum Jubilee** - Cllr Carter said this had been discussed at E&C and a party with union jack decorations had been suggested. Cllr Hosken said it would be great to have a beacon and a new commemorative plaque placed on the Wrekin. Cllr de Launey suggested if additional funding was needed E&C should bring its request to P&R.
- 53/21 Parliamentary Boundary Review** – This item was on the agenda following the request made at Full Council by Cllr McClements. Cllr Hosken said in his view that discussion was not necessary at this point. Cllr Roberts said the closing date for responses had passed. Cllr McClements said she felt there was some confusion at the Full Council meeting with members focussing on the name of the constituency remaining as ‘The Wrekin’ when it is actually a much wider issue. She explained there would be a further opportunity to comment early in the new year when the boundary review proposals are known. Cllr Fairclough was invited to address the meeting and said she found this item confusing. Cllr de Launey explained the process and that everyone will have an opportunity to comment at the 2<sup>nd</sup> opportunity. Cllr Hosken proposed this item be added to the agenda once the proposals are known and an official submission be made by this Council. He was seconded by Cllr Gorse and members agreed.

- 54/21**      **Returning Devolved Power Back to Full Council** – Cllr de Launey said he felt it was the right time to undo the emergency Covid arrangements and return power to Full Council. Cllr Gorse asked if it would be safe to have 21 Councillors with additional staff and members of the public meeting in this room. The Clerk said she would check the legal situation prior to the September meeting. Cllr de Launey proposed returning power to Full Council subject to any legal restrictions in September 2021. He was seconded by Cllr Hosken and members voted in favour.
- 55/21**      **Standing Orders** – Cllr McClements asked why the Standing Orders had been circulated with the agenda. The Clerk explained this meeting was open to all councillors and members of council who are not members of a committee are to be treated as members of the public. Standing Orders had been attached to illustrate the situation but she added that there had been an update and she would bring an updated document to the next meeting for approval. Cllr McClements asked that equality be written into the updated document.
- 56/21**      **The date of the next meeting was agreed as 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**
- 57/21**      **Exclusion of Press and Public** - It was proposed by Cllr de Launey that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the next item of business in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Local Government Act 1972. He was seconded by Cllr Gorse and all members were in agreement.

Chairman.....7<sup>th</sup> September 2021