

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 5th January 2021 commencing at 7.05pm.

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

Also In attendance – Cllr P. Fairclough, Cllr P. Davis, A. Roberts- Deputy Town Clerk and K. Roper- Town Clerk.

- 42/20 Chairman's Welcome** – Cllr. de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting, wished everyone a Happy New Year and reminded members that proceedings are being live streamed on Facebook.
- 43/20 Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies.
- 44/20 Declaration of Interest** – There were no declarations of Interest made at this point.
- 45/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting dated 1st December 2020**
- a Speed Indicator Device (SID)**– The Clerk informed members one device was placed on the Whitchurch Road and one in Arleston Lane. Morelock had been approached for an up to date price for purchasing further units. An application was being forwarded to the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund a further 4 SID units. Cllr de Launey asked about the cost of the installation of posts so in areas where existing lampposts are unsuitable the units can still be installed. The Clerk said she still had not had a response and would chase Highways again for this. Cllr Carter asked that a document be produced that schedules where and when the units are to be positioned, funding, communications and the possibility of forming speed watch volunteer groups. The Clerk said she had been tasked by the ICM group to produce a policy and would share the draft with Cllr Carter to ensure all the issues were covered.
- b Bowring Toilets** – The Clerk reported the toilets were transferred to the Café tenants on 23rd December 2020 and so far there were no issues to report.
- 46/20 Finance** – Members had received papers, Cllr Hosken proposed the finance reports referenced 6a – 6d be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Gorse and members voted unanimously in favour. Clarification was requested on the PCC grant payment and the community pride funding for Remembrance Sunday. The Deputy Clerk said he would give these explanations by email. There were no further questions and all members voted in favour of accepting the monthly accounts reports.
- 47/20 Budget 2021/22–**
- Arleston Community Centre** - The Chairman said he had received a request to split out the grant for the Arleston Community Centre which is currently shown in a total figure which included grants for the band and community groups applications. Cllr Carter supported the change so the Community Centre funding would be separated out in the

same way as the Dothill Conservation Group funding. Cllr Morris-Jones suggested things can change year on year so he felt negotiations should be done on an annual, flexible basis. Cllr McClements said she would welcome funding for the Arlestone Community Centre to be put into the base budget. She stated that the centre is run by volunteers and provided services for the whole community including meals during the lockdown. They need the reassurance that the money is coming in every year.

Community Action Team – Cllr Carter requested clarification of the allocated budget figure of £15k. The Chairman explained this was the amount previously assigned to the ICM group and this agreement ended at the end of the financial year. He had allocated enough money to provide 0.5 of an enforcement officer, 0.5 of a place manager and funding for a mobile CCTV camera, but as yet, no discussions had taken place and he would add this item on to the Feb agenda.

Senior Citizens – Cllr McClements asked that a sum is put aside to support this group as they had been through such a lot during the Covid situation. . Cllr Gorse suggested the sum of £2,000 could be used to offer a free film show, coffee and mince pie at the Orbit.

Celebrate the end of Covid restrictions - Cllr Davis spoke as Chair of Events and Communications Committee stating he felt that something should be done to celebrate the end of lockdown to lift everyone's spirits

It was proposed by Cllr McClements and seconded by Cllr Gorse to add the sum of £2,000 to the precept costing £5.36 per annum on a band 'D' property rate request to support an event for senior citizens. A vote was taken resulting in 3 votes for, 1 against and 3 abstentions. The vote was carried.

The Chairman proposed the amended budget showing Total Expenditure £524,991 for acceptance and was seconded by Cllr Carter. Members voted resulting in 4 votes for and 3 abstentions, the vote was therefore carried.

Cllr Carter asked that a budget pack of information was prepared by the Clerk to present to the Full Council, public and press to show how the money would be spent.

48/20 To Propose a Precept for 2021/22 for the approval of Full Council on 12th January 2021- The Chairman proposed the sum of £499,991.000 as the precept proposal for 2021/22, he was seconded by Cllr Carter and a vote was taken resulting in 4 in favour and 3 abstentions. The proposal was therefore carried.

49/20 ICM Report – The Clerk had distributed reports of the meeting held on 23rd December. Cllr Morris-Jones reported he was impressed with the integrity of the Officer taking the meeting who was showing obvious embarrassment that some of the items covered by the report were taking so long to resolve. There was long discussion about the process and the way problems were raised. The Clerk was asked to develop a strategy and process to avoid Councillors raising issues outside of their own wards and not informing the ward members.

50/20 Tribute to George Evans – Jacob Chandler had submitted 2 designs for consideration. Cllr Hosken proposed to accept 'Equilibrium' and was seconded by Cllr deLauney. The Clerk was asked to contact Paul Evans to ensure the family was happy with the choice. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal to commission the piece provided it meets with the approval of the Evans family.

51/20 The Next Virtual Meeting Date was agreed as 2nd February 2021 via Zoom link.

Chairman.....2nd February 2021