

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr P. Davis



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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the face to face meeting held on Tuesday 6th July 2021 at Civic Offices and commencing at 7.00pm.

Present - Cllr S. de Launey (SDL) - Chairman, Cllr S. Hall (SH), Cllr J. Gorse (JG), Cllr L. Carter (LC), Cllr A. McClements (AMcC)

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

- 23/21 Welcome and introductory comments** – Cllr. de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 24/21 Variation of the Agenda** – The Chairman asked members to withdraw item 10 on the agenda as there was insufficient information available to report this evening.
- 25/21 Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies received. It was noted that Cllrs Morris-Jones and Hosken were absent from the meeting.
- 26/21 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.
- 27/21 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the meeting dated 1st June 2021** – The minutes were proposed by Cllr Carter as a true and accurate record, he was seconded by Cllr Gorse and all members voted in favour.
- 28/21 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting dated 1st June 2021**
- a George Evans Tribute** – The Clerk reported that a further rock had been identified and that an initial site meeting had taken place between SWT, Paul Evans and the Deputy Clerk. A further site meeting with Adrian Corney (T&W) Paul Carline (idverde) would be held in order to confirm the moving arrangements in order to site the rock within the Peace Garden.
 - b Speed Indicator Device** – The Clerk reported that the SIDs had been moved to Glade Way, Shawbirch and Apley Avenue. It was further confirmed that the third SID had been ordered and a delivery date was currently awaited. Cllr Gorse enquired as to whether Apley Avenue was on the approved list, by way of response it was confirmed that both locations were on the list that had been provided by Telford & Wrekin Council. Cllr McClements enquired as to the present situation with her suggestion relating to Churchill Road Arleston, it was confirmed that at present this particular location was not on the approved list, but that it was confirmed that Telford & Wrekin Council would be approached in order to identify the most appropriate location. Cllr Carter enquired as to the collection of data, the meeting was advised as to how the data was collected and then forwarded to Telford & Wrekin Council.
 - c Parade Toilets** – the Chairman confirmed that there was a number of current issues, although as there was a current contract, which would preclude any open discussion. He requested members to note the current situation and that they were to be reassured that should they receive any subsequent enquiries, that the Town Council were aware of the

possible issues and it was anticipated that a further proposal would be submitted to the next meeting of Policy & Resources Committee in August.

- d Regeneration Meeting** – it was noted that the planned Regeneration Board meeting scheduled to have been held in June had been cancelled, mainly as a result that further clarifications had been raised by HM Government, which needed to be dealt with and confirmed. Once these clarifications had been confirmed it was then anticipated that the Regeneration Board would then be in a position to work with the Town Deal Board in order to progress this project further. Cllr Carter commented that the Town Council should consider lobbying the local MP to “fight” Wellington’s corner in order to attend future meetings of the Local Towns Board.
- e Shropshire’s Outstanding Community** – it was noted that the Town had entered this particular competition, although there were no further details available.
- f Opening the High Street – 10th July 2021** – it was confirmed that this event would be held from 1:00pm on Saturday 10th July instead of 10:00am taking into account a funeral that was to be held All Saint’s Church, which had resulted in activities being scaled back, no activities had been scheduled for the All Saints Church at the same time as the funeral.

29/21 Finance – Members had received the papers in advance of the meeting. Cllr deLauney proposed the finance reports referenced 6 a-d be accepted en-bloc, Cllr Gorse seconded him and members voted unanimously in favour of acceptance of the financial reports. There were no questions raised on the papers.

30/21 To receive a copy of the Internal Auditor’s report for the year ending 31st March 2021 to recommend acceptance and to authorise signature of these at Full Council on 13th July 2021 – the Chairman proposed acceptance of the Internal Auditor’s report and to recommend acceptance of the same to Full Council and was seconded by Cllr Hall, members were in full agreement. It was noted that the Internal Auditor had raised no issues. Cllr deLauney wished to record the Committee’s congratulations to the Deputy Clerk for his ongoing work with ensuring that the accounts were prepared accurately and that no errors were found during the audit

31/21 To receive details of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return to recommend acceptance and to authorise signature of these at Full Council on 13th July 2021 – the Chairman proposed acceptance of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 together with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and to recommend that the AGAR be approved and to authorise signature of the same at Full Council to be held on Tuesday 13th July 2021 this was accordingly seconded by Cllr Gorse, members were in full agreement. The Chairman reminded members that this should have been dealt with by the end of June but that due to the fact that there had been no meeting of Full Council held in June due to the expiration of the remote meeting regulations which had not been extended. It was reported that the External Auditors had been contacted to confirm the Town Council’s position, but it was anticipated that the External Auditor would make comment in relation to the same. The meeting was also advised as to the restated figure in relation to Staff Costs in Box 4 of the Accounting Statements 2020/21 – Section 2 and the details relating to this figure for the year ending 31 March 2020.

32/21 Parliamentary Boundary Review – The letter that had been received from Mark Pritchard MP detailing his concern that “the Wrekin” should be no longer referred to as a result of the current review. He had requested that the Town Council should formally write to the Boundary Commission to confirm that the name of “The Wrekin” should be retained. The Chairman further commented that in his view on the basis that the majority of the Constituency in the future would retain elements of the present Wrekin Constituency that the name should be retained. Cllr Roberts confirmed that in her view the name should be retained in order to reflect the historical nature of the area, and in her view that it would be

quite a large change, and that she had responded accordingly. Cllr McClements commented that she was passionate that the name of “the Wrekin” should be retained, and that had been her expressed view following the previous review. She further commented that she hoped that all members of the Town Council would reflect the same view, and she enquired as to whether this should be an issue to be considered by Full Council. The Chairman reminded the meeting that Policy & Resources had delegated powers to determine the Town Council view; however, the meeting concluded that this should be referred to Full Council. Cllr Davis welcomed the possible opportunity to consider and vote accordingly. It was proposed by Cllr McClements and seconded by Cllr deLauney and resolved that the Committee recommend to Full Council that they agree a submission to the Boundary Commission that the parliamentary constituency retain the name of “The Wrekin”.

33/21 Office 365 – This item was withdrawn from tonight’s meeting. The Chairman reported that it had become apparent that the quotation which had been received should have provided two options for consideration, but that he had noted that this was not the case so further clarification would be sought and a further report submitted to the August meeting of the Committee.

34/21 Bowring Cafe – The Chairman reported that the Bowring Café had been more successful than had probably envisaged and that it had now got to the stage that it was probably not big enough. The tenants had approached the Town Council with a proposal that they wished to amend the internal arrangements of the present building into a kitchen and preparation area, thus removing the café area, and thus allowing more internal space. The Chairman had been requested to contact the Borough Council who had returned with a proposal to undertake a feasibility survey at a cost of £1,120.00 (excl VAT) in order to identify the various possible options that might be available. Cllr Carter whilst wishing to acknowledge the tremendous success of the current operation commented that he wished to support the feasibility study but that there was a need to “future proof” the building. It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr McClements and resolved that a feasibility survey be undertaken at a cost of £1,120.00 excluding VAT.

35/21 Community Action Team Report – The Chairman referred the meeting to a whole host of reports that had been submitted in advance of the meeting these were for noting;

The first was simply a report of the recent Community Action Team, following the meeting that had been held with all the Group Leaders and the Clerk, which related to various enforcement issues that had been identified. Appendix 6 was the detailed Community Action Team action plan, which had identified issues and agreed actions with the resulting outcomes. Appendix 7 was an update report received from the Environment Community Liaison Officer on all his activities to date and then finally a briefing paper was noted on the engagement under the Telford Woods project. Members were also referred to the Hotspot Monitoring Report, which had also been submitted in advance to members. Cllr Carter commented that the reports were an excellent start and that the initial work undertaken was excellent. The meeting was advised that the Deputy Clerk had spent some detailed time with Chris Hallam and that he had identified a number of areas of work that the WEST team had undertaken, since the previous meeting. Members were advised that the team had been reduced to one team member due to the other team member having contracting Coronavirus, which as a result had reduced activities. Cllr Gorse commented that she wished to thank the team for the work that they had undertaken and she was further pleased to see the updates on the Town Council social media channels. The Deputy Clerk reported that many positive comments had been received both on our social media channels but that also many positive comments were also received by the Team, whilst undertaking their duties.

36/21 Events and Communications Committee Report of the meeting held 30th June 2021 – Members had received a written report of the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2021, which were accordingly noted. Cllr Carter referred to the excellent work of the

Committee and the forthcoming events which included the forthcoming Family Fun Days which might be held with relaxed coronavirus regulations.

- 37/21 Market Street** – Members were referred to the attachments that had been submitted prior to the meeting. The Chairman reminded members on the ongoing issues particularly on the corner of Church Street and Market Street. The Chairman referred to the ongoing consultancy work however there was nothing further to report to the meeting.
- 38/21 To Consider Arrangements for Full Council Meeting to be held at All Saints Church –** The Chairman reminded members that the proposal was that the forthcoming Full Council meeting would be held at All Saints Church, Wellington. The Chairman reported that he had undertaken initial discussions with the Clerk and it had been agreed that a donation would be paid in the sum of £150.00, as there was no actual charge being levied. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that he would be having a meeting at the Church in order to finalise arrangements for the meeting.
- 39/21 The next meeting date was agreed as 3rd August 2021 at 7:00pm.**

Chairman.....3rd August 2021