

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Anthony Lowe



Town Clerk
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POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 4th June 2019 commencing at 7.16 pm following the Grants panel.

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Cllr S. de Launey (SDL) | Cllr. F. Burns (FB) | Cllr M. Hosken (MH) | Cllr S. Hall (SH) |
| Cllr. P. Morris-Jones (PMJ) | Cllr. L. Carter (LC) | Cllr J. Gorse (JG) | |

In attendance – Cllr A. Lowe & Cllr P. Fairclough (Ex Officio), Karen Roper Town Clerk (KR).

- 1/19 **Election of Chairman** - Cllr de Launey welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for nominations to serve as Chairman for the forthcoming year. Cllr de Launey was proposed seconded and unanimously elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.
- 2/19 **Election of Vice Chairman** – Cllr de Launey called for nominations to serve as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. Cllr Morris-Jones was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.
- 3/19 **Apologies for Absence** - There were no apologies for absence.
- 4/19 **Declaration of Interest** – None were declared at this point.
- 5/19 **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 30th April 2019** – Following the addition of apologies given by Cllr Gorse, the minutes were proposed by Cllr Burns, seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones and RESOLVED by members to be a true and accurate record.
- 6/19 **Matters Arising**
- CCG Letter** – The Clerk said the letter had made the first page of the Shropshire Star but no response had been received from the CCG. She thanked the Mayor for his help with the letter.
 - Rough Sleepers** – The Clerk said the shutters were now installed on 4 Market Square, this had unfortunately displaced the rough sleepers to the Churches and other areas. Members wished to formally thank Telford and Wrekin for acting quickly to erect the gates and solve the problem for the businesses in Market Square. Town Council staff had pulled back from dealing directly with the problem and it was agreed that the matter be referred to the next ICM meeting. Members requested they were kept up to date with progress.
- 7/19 **Finance**
New style reports were presented for April 2019. Agenda items, a & b were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Hosken, seconded by Cllr Gorse and agreed by members as a true record. Items c & d on the agenda were not available. Members commented that the reports listed on the agenda should be made available meetings.

External Auditor - Item 'e' on the agenda, the Clerk gave an update on the recent challenge to the 2017/18 accounts, explaining that there was no problem with the finances which had been accepted by the External Auditor as a true record and every penny was accounted for. The Deputy Clerk had answered questions from the External Auditor and was waiting for their response. The problem was about the Asset Register which had not

been administered correctly for many years and values would therefore need to be restated for 2018/19 in accordance with NALC guidance.

Internal Auditor – Item ‘f’ on the agenda, the Clerk reported the Internal Auditor is currently Harjinder Atwal who is now due to inspect the accounts.

8/19 To approve the recommendations of the Grants Panel, held 6:00pm on 05/06/19
The recommendations of the Grants Panel, were proposed by Cllr de Launey, seconded by Cllr Burns and approved by members to be forwarded to Full Council on 11th June.

9/19 Bowring Tenancy Agreement – The Clerk had issued both the agreements and the response from tenants to members for information. Members commented that the town council have helped this business to start up and cannot give ongoing assistance to a private enterprise. Cllr de Launey proposed that the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Mayor and Clerk be given a mandate to meet with the Tenants and resolve issues. The Proposal was moved by Cllr Hosken and 2nd by Cllr Carter and agreed by members.

10/19 Wellington Market Company
Cllr Carter reported the Borough were in contact with the agents acting for the market company who were open to bids both for the whole company and for separate lots. The Borough had already written off debts for the company relating to business rates of £80,000 and paid to make electrics safe in the Post Office costing £5,000. Presently the Boroughs’ position is to wait and see who comes forward to buy the premises knowing that a great deal of work and money is needed to bring the property up to a suitable standard. There appears to be strong interest from other market companies and various other options have been suggested such as consortiums or trader consortium buy outs. The building itself is not listed but is of historic note and comes with residential and retail holdings on the opposite side of the street. Cllr Carter said if the Governments’ High Street fund bid is successful then the situation would be eased. Cllr de Launey commented that the Town Council had £500,000 to invest.

11/19 To form a Working Group to address the following tasks:
a. Deal with the T&W / idVerde contracts
b. Consideration of Environmental Team Tasks
It was agreed that Cllrs de Launey, Lowe and Burns be appointed to form a working party and would be, liaising with local ward members, Telford and Wrekin and idVerde.

12/19 Provision of an Oak Bench to Commemorate Mr & Mrs Brittain
Members were given details of an oak bench proposed for installation by Telford and Wrekin in recognition of the services of Mr & Mrs Brittain in the Bowring park. The Clerk informed members that Cllr Cook wished to donate his ward fund towards the cost. Cllr Carter suggested this was accepted and the Clerk have delegated authority to liaise with the Borough and that the Town Council meets any shortfall. Members were in agreement with this suggestion.

13/19 Provision of a Personal and Public Liability Licence for Dohill Nature Reserve
Cllr Morris-Jones felt that a licence would already be covering the Dohill nature reserve so suggested this issue to be referred back asking for a further clarification and put on the agenda for the next meeting.

14/19 To consider provision of a defibrillator at Shawbirch Community Centre
Members commented that volunteers would need to apply for a grant for the equipment which could be placed at the proposed new Health Surgery in Shawbirch.

15/19 To agree date and time of the next meeting as Tuesday 2nd July 2019 at 7.00pm

Chairman.....2nd July 2019