

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Dorothy Roberts



Town Clerk
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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in Civic Offices on Tuesday 11th October 2022 commencing at 7.00pm and livestreamed on Facebook.

Present:

Deputy Mayor- Cllr A. Lowe	Cllr. G. Cook	Cllr J. Gorse	Cllr U. Ahmed
Cllr P. Fairclough	Cllr J. Pierce	Cllr J. Latter	Cllr. C. Barker
Cllr L. Carter	Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr S. de Launey	Cllr. P. Davis
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE	Cllr S. Hall	Cllr. A. McClements	

Public Open Session – In the absence of the Mayor the Deputy Mayor, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members to stand for 2 minutes silence in respect of our late Queen. He then gave his own verbal tribute and invited members to do the same. Cllrs Morris-Jones, McClements, Carter, Ahmed and Fairclough rose to verbalise their personal experiences and tributes. Cllr Carter suggesting that honouring the Queen and the new King within the context of the new developments should be considered.

The Deputy Mayor then paid his tribute to stalwart Ross Vickers who was always armed with his camera, attending meetings and events with his Wife when they were able to. Cllr Morris -Jones said Mr Vickers was known as 'Mr Wellington'. Cllr Fairclough said Ross had worked so hard for Wellington and was a member of many local groups being particularly active in the Civic Society, his commitment and knowledge will be greatly missed. Cllr McClements agreed he had an enormous passion for Wellington and support for Arleston. Cllr Jinks reminded members of the Memorial Service being held on 9th November 2022, 3pm at All Saints Church.

Cllr Lowe then called upon Rev. Nick Brooke to lead prayers.

Rev. Nick Brooke said prayers and left the meeting at 7.15 pm

40/22 - To Receive and Approve Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllrs Hosken, Luter, Tomlinson, Brittain and Alvey for illness and Cllr Roberts was on holiday. The following members agreed to note and accept the apologies. Cllrs; Lowe, Fairclough, Carter, Morris-Jones, Cook, Pierce, Jinks, Hall, Gorse, Latter, de Launey, McClements, Ahmed, Barker and Davis.

41/22 – To Receive Declarations of Interest – None were declared at this point.

42/22 - Telford and Wrekin Healthwatch – Cllr Lowe introduced Fiona Doran who informed members of the purpose of Health Watch as a not for profit organisation giving a voice residents in relation to all aspects of healthcare provision.

The Deputy Mayor said that information can be circulated via the Town Councils' social media and website. Cllr Davis said as Chairman of Events and Communications we could also use the magazine to disseminate information. Cllr McClements said as Chair of the Telford and Wrekin Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch are considered key partners having the power to visit

health delivery locations, they do a really important job. Cllr Morris-Jones said the service that Healthwatch can provide is invaluable to people who are in need of their services. Cllr Lowe thanked Fiona for attending this evening, she left information leaflets for members.

Fiona was thanked by members and left the meeting 7.40pm

43/22 Receive and Approve the minutes of the Full Council held on 12th July 2022

It was proposed by Cllr Jinks that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a true and accurate record. She was seconded by Cllr Cook and the following members voted in favour Cllrs; Lowe, Fairclough, Carter, Morris-Jones, Cook, Pierce, Jinks, Hall, Gorse, Latter, de Launey, McClements, Ahmed, Barker and Davis. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

44/22 Receive and Approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 9th August 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr Ahmed that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a true and accurate record. He was seconded by Cllr Pierce and the following members voted in favour Cllrs; Lowe, Fairclough, Carter, Morris-Jones, Cook, Pierce, Jinks, Hall, Gorse, Latter, de Launey, McClements, Ahmed, Barker and Davis. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

45/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes –

The Clerk said the Police and Crime Commissioner was unable to attend the November meeting of the Town Council. Members agreed that she invite him to the December meeting.

46/22 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider the recommendations therein.

- a) **Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 02.08.22, 06.09.22 and 04.10.22** – Cllr de Launey asked if members had questions on the August and September minutes. He then gave his report on matters raised in the meeting held on 04.10.22
- **Cllr Morris-Jones** – Asked for clarification in relation to minute ref: 34/22 C. The Car Parking Working Group – Cllr de Launey responded by stating that this group has not met because we are waiting for information and a suitable date for a joint meeting with T&W.
- **Cllr Morris –Jones** – Asked for an update on minute ref;49/22 D, Cyclists dismount signs, The Deputy Chairman said he had a meeting with an officer from Telford and Wrekin confirming the locations for the signs and the process is underway.
- **Borrowing Approval** – Cllr de Launey referred to minute ref: 63/22 stating we have now been successful in obtaining the necessary permissions but the interest rates have since doubled from 2.25% to at least 5%. Therefore the November meeting of P&R will have to consider its budget to decide if we wish to take out a loan with a high fixed interest rate for the next 30.5 years.
- a) **Planning Committee meetings held on 06.07.22, 03.08.22, 17.08.22 and 07.09.22**– Cllr Jinks presented the minutes for all meetings. Cllr. Cook said he had declared he had a conflict of interest which was not recorded on the minutes of 07.09.22. Cllr de Launey said this needed to be rectified at the next planning meeting. There had been a further meeting held on 28.09.22, the minutes of which will be presented at the next meeting.
- b) **Events and Communications Committee 26.07.22, 30.08.22 and 27.09.22** – Cllr Davis presented the minutes, there were no further comments.

47/22 Dothill Conservation Working Group – The Clerk thought this meeting had been cancelled and would be rearranged but Cllr Pierce said the meeting did go ahead on 21st September but no minutes have been provided to date and it was now 3 weeks after the event. The Clerk was asked to chase the Committee Clerk requesting these are circulated as soon as possible.

48/22 Code of Conduct Decision – Cllr Lowe said he had been asked to read the following apology to Council as worded by the Deputy Monitoring Officer which explained the background and situation following a complaint made about his conduct on Facebook in March 2022.

'I would like to apologise for breaching the Councillors Code of Conduct in relation to comments I made on social media in relation to the planning application for a solar farm at Steeraway Farm. I accept that the way in which I expressed my support for the scheme and responded to members of the public would likely to have given members of the public the impression that my support stemmed from a donation being made to the Halfway House Community Interest Company of which I am a Director . The Deputy Monitoring Officer found that my views on solar energy are long held and genuine. I am pleased that I have been found to have disclosed my pecuniary interests and other registrable interests at the appropriate time in the appropriate manner.'

Cllr Jinks called his resignation.

Cllr Lowe said we have a proposal for the resignation of the Deputy Mayor do we have a seconder?

Cllr Carter seconded her proposal and a vote was held resulting in
7 for Cllrs Carter, Jinks, McClements, Davis, Cook, Latter, Gorse
2 against Cllrs de Launey and Fairclough

Cllr Lowe took off his chain of office and left the room with Cllr deLauney.

The Clerk advised members to close the meeting at this point and to take the final agenda items at the next meeting.

Abstentions to the vote - Cllr Barker called for a vote for those Councillors who wished to abstain and Cllr Pierce asked for her abstention to be placed on record. The Clerk called for a vote to record the abstentions

4 abstentions were recorded Cllrs Barker, Pierce, Hall, Morris-Jones

Cllr Carter proposed the meeting continues to finish the business as quickly as possible, with Cllr Davis taking the chair. He was seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones the remaining members were in agreement.

Cllr Davis Took the Chair and thanked members and said he would keep the business to a minimum.

49/22 Climate Change Emergency Working Group meetings of 07.07.22 and 01.09.22- Cllr Davies presented the minutes and said Aldi now had a soft plastic recycling facility. He said 'we made the request and they followed through so now both Aldi and Morrison's in Wellington provide a facility for recycling soft plastics'. There were no questions.

50/22 Community Action Team Meeting 08.09.22 – The Clerk said the report had been circulated and invited members to inform her of any issues they would her to raise at the meeting next week.

51/22 Regeneration Board Report 21.09.22. – Cllr de Launey had left the meeting there was therefore no report.

52/22 Date of Next Meeting – was agreed as 8th November 2022

Chairman.....8th November 2022