

# Wellington Town Council

**Town Mayor**  
**Cllr Denis Allen**



**Town Clerk**  
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## **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 13th June 2017 commencing at 7:05pm.

### **Present:**

Cllr D Allen – Mayor	Cllr M Hosken	Cllr J Gorse
Cllr C Mason-Morris – Deputy Mayor	Cllr A McClements	Cllr S Hall
Cllr P Fairclough	Cllr J Alvey	Cllr G Cook
Cllr K Tomlinson	Cllr F Burns	Cllr A Lowe
Cllr S deLauney	Cllr S Fikeis	Cllr P Morris-Jones MBE
Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr G Luter	

**In attendance** – 6 members of the public, Reverend Tim Carter from All Saints Church, Chief Inspector Graham Preece, and Dominic Proud T&W Service Delivery Manager, Karen Roper – Town Clerk.

**Introduction and Welcome** – The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly new Cllrs, Lisa Jinks and Giles Luter. He then called on Reverend Carter to take prayers.

**Rev. Carter** – Following prayers, Rev. Carter said the Mid-Summer fair event was excellent and thanks were due to everyone who had a part in that. He was also putting the final touches to the Civic Service and would be circulating that shortly. The Mayor thanked Reverend Carter and at 7.05pm he left the meeting

**17/17 Presentation of Chain of Office to Deputy Mayor** – Cllr Allen presented the Chain of Office to Cllr Mason–Morris and photos were taken.

**18/17 Presentation of Past Mayor Medal** – Cllr Allen presented Cllr Morris-Jones with a past service medal. Cllr Morris-Jones said it had taken him 28 year service and 4 years as a Mayor to get this medal.

**19/17 Chief Inspector Graham Preece** - Gave the following report  
He Arrived in post on 1.4.17 and was bringing with him practical experience of the Integrated Community Management Scheme from Shrewsbury. It is about working in partnership to deal with low level crime such as dog fouling, littering etc. to be more effective and efficient. In Shrewsbury it resulted in people being more confident to use the Town Centre and demonstrated the fact it was a safe clean place through the purple flag system. Over the next 6-12 months local issues will be identified and T&W are developing a dashboard that will log problems and show actions take and ultimately prove the benefits of the scheme. Cllr deLauney said the Council did not vote to support ICM, it voted to pay for a PCSO to deal with our parking issues which is not happening presently. He explained the scheme is being

paid for by Telford & Wrekin, the Town Council has not given any money, and is currently getting the service for free. Tom Harding had promised that the PCSO will control parking up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. CI Preece said that the Police remit is react to threat, harm and risk, T&W are looking at taking the responsibility for parking and he had gone out on a limb to add this responsibility to the PCSO's role for the present time. Cllr Alvey said there were problems in the immediate vicinity where double yellow lines are totally disregarded. Additionally drugs are openly passed from cars so a police presence is needed. CI Preece responded by urging members to report such issues to the Clerk so she can raise them at the weekly phone in. Cllr McClements said that Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) is currently being deliberated at T&W and with scrutiny at the moment and the decision has to be what is right for the borough. Cllr Burns said the increased visible presence in the Town helps people feel safer and members should bear that in mind. Members thanked CI Preece for his presentation by a round of applause.

CI Preece left at 7.25pm

**20/17 Dominic Proud** – Service Delivery Manager for Highways, Transport and Engineering Services for Telford and Wrekin Council. He hoped to develop the relationship with the Town Council to address short/medium and long term goals for highways and transport including parking and it was up to the Council how they wished to take this forward either through a nominated individual or working group. He reminded members of the 'My Telford App' to enable easy reporting of issues which will give a reference number so progress can be traced. If something has been reported that has not been addressed within a reasonable time please bring it his attention. Dominic said through the Pride in Your Community Fund the Council are looking to invest £39 million in to roads and highways. He gave a list of the areas due to receive maintenance and further work such as speed reviews, lighting upgrades and the reconstruction. The Holyhead Road speed review and upgrading scheme will be taking place during August and September and would involve closure of the motorway junction.

He was happy to be informed of any hot spots, members raised the following issues:

- Cllr Alvey - Made a plea for the Hollies Estate roads and pavements to be given attention as they are a disgrace and an Officer had looked at them with him 18 months ago. Cllr Cook said he had also been liaising with the Officer and the area had been included in the upgrading programme. Mr Proud said he was aware of the situation but it is not included in this years' programme but was on his radar. Cllr Cook said he was working on this problem.
- Cllr Alvey also raised the issue of heavy traffic, speeding and the blind corner on Haygate Road near the Guest House and the vets surgery.
- Cllr Lowe, said the Ketley Brook Roundabout was splendid, but traffic coming off the M54 left onto Watling Street to a 20 yard filter down into one lane which is very short and could cause an accident. DP said a stage 4 safety audit will take place and he would feed in his views. He added that signage would be looked at on the cycle routes
- Cllr Morris-Jones said King Street – outside of the Catholic Church has double yellow lines in the layby so people were parking on the road creating a hazard reducing the 2 way to one way traffic creating a death trap on almost a blind bend. DP said it would be looked at.
- Cllr McCarthy said the Haybridge Road traffic lights as it doesn't seem logical for a through road to remain in this area and parking for residents around the Ketley Brook Garage as vehicles are repeatedly written off or damaged. DP was happy to keep this issue under review and see if there is any funding in the future to offer a resolution come back with further details.
- Cllr McCarthy said the footpath in King Street was all at different angles creating a hazard for disabled and elderly residents.
- Cllr Jinks – Representing Dothill ward said that parking restrictions for 30 mins had been imposed outside the shops on the Booklands estate. These included a hairdressers, and tanning salon. All the retailers were unhappy about the situation which has led to people parking on the estate roads. Cllr Jinks said there had been no consultation and she

asked him to review the decision and be reasonable and proportionate with any restrictions. DP agreed to look at the situation.

DP asked for Councillors to highlight aspirations for Wellington as a bid for the National Productivity Investment Fund is going forward transport improvements such as bus infrastructure, shelters, signage, cycle, walking routes, upgrading of traffic signals town centre, and Market Street closing date 30<sup>th</sup> June. Members were asked to feed in any aspirations to DP.

3 year programme of weeks now being drawn up and Members were invited to feed issues into the list to Wellington Parking in relation to the parking machines goes live on Monday next week and would initially have a soft enforcement approach notifying people they need to get a ticket to park now.

Civil Parking Enforcement models are being considered by Telford and Wrekin and there will be a 6 month consultation process following the decision.

Cllr McClements said she was delighted Dominic had taken the time to give feedback on progress and suggested a Working Group be formed to communicate in the future. Cllr Allen asked for this issue to be discussed at the next Policy and Resources Committee.

Dominic Proud left at 7.45pm.

**21/17 Apologies** – Were received from Cllrs, Carter, Brittain, Tomlinson and Roberts. Members proposed and agreed acceptance of the apologies.

**22/17 Declarations of Interests** – None were declared at this time.

**23/17 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017** – It was proposed by Cllr Alvey to 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Morris-Jones and RESOLVED BY MEMBERS to accept the minutes as a true record.

**24/17 Matters Arising** – None were raised at this point

**25/17 To receive the Minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.**

**25.1 Planning Committee -**

**Minutes of meeting held of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017** - Were presented by Cllr Alvey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Morris-Jones and agreed by members as a true record.

**Planning Committee Minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017** were presented by Cllr Alvey , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr deLauney and agreed by members as a true record.

**25.2 Promotions & Liaison Committee meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017** – Councillor Fikeis presented the minutes which were seconded by Cllr Alvey and agreed by members as a true record. Ross Vickers was thanked for his photographs of the Midsummer Fair taken on Saturday. Cllr Lowe commented on the defibrillator survey saying that a unit should be in the positioned centrally in the town centre. Cllr Morris-Jones reminded members the flagpole needs to be relocated before we can consider flying any flags. Members had agreed that a letter of congratulations should be sent to Eddie Lowe at the Plough pub for holding such an excellent and successful ‘Help the Heroes’ event, Cllr Alvey said the event had raised £24,500 and he thanked the Town Council for their support. The Committee had agreed to support the proposal to make the Town more walkers friendly and also the re-routing of the Shropshire Way Main Route through Wellington Town Centre. Cllr Jinks asked what was happening with the Market Company as this was a major concern, the Clerk said Cllr Carter was chasing for an urgent meeting date with the Market Management Representatives. People of Wellington (POW) celebrations now had 96 artists appearing and would finish with a fireworks display.

**25.3 Wellington Festival Committee Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017** - Cllr Mason-Morris presented the minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Gorse, Cllr Morris-Jones said he was not on the committee therefore had not forwarded his apologies. Cllr Mason-Morris said the 30 events including interactive workshops had been booked in 16 venues starting on 13<sup>rd</sup> October running through to 28<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr Gorse said it was a great pity that there are so few Councillors on this Committee as it works hard to become more inclusive and is a showcase for the town. It does this Council a disservice that no one else gets involved other than the same few Councillors. Cllr Alvey said that volunteers are required to help at the events and often there are only 2 volunteers there. Cllr Cook said that the daytime meetings are difficult for him to attend as he is working; Cllr Mason Morris said that the committee have tried altering meeting times before but she would take his comments back to the committee. Members RESOLVED to accept the minutes as a true record.

**25.4 Policy & Resources Committee Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017** - Cllr deLauney presented the minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members.

- **Allotments** – Cllr deLauney said the Borough are requesting the Council consider taking over provision of allotments in Wellington. There was no profit to be made for the Town Council and it would result in administration costs. Cllr McCarthy reminded members of the social benefits of allotments and felt that it was the role of the Town Council to provide them. Cllr Burns said P&R did consider provision and the Clerk had been asked to deliver a report to the next meeting identifying actual costs and officer time.
- **Chewing Gum Removal** – Staff were obtaining quotations and looking at the different types of systems on the market. Cllr deLauney described the twin approach of having everywhere cleaned and then purchasing a machine to maintain that cleanliness. The Clerk was requested to provide a report.
- **Smell** – Staff had brought a great deal of pressure on both T&W drainage staff and on Severn Trent to resolve this issue. The current report is that the pumping station on the Health Centre car park is not working and may not have been working for some time. The proposal is to cordon off parking spaces so that a tanker can pump out the slurry, clean and ensure the pumps are working. Severn Trent Water hope this will solve most of the problems. Further work has been identified outside of the Beacon pub and fat blockages are to blame there. Cllr Burns said the smell has been around here for years and thanks are due to staff for having the tenacity to get this resolved.
- **ASB Working Group** – A meeting was held on 8<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the following issues
  - **Survey Results** –
  - **Integrated Community Management** –
  - **Partnership Approach-**
 The Clerk said that minutes would be available shortly.
- **Office Move** – Members had received the notes of the emergency meeting of the office move group. Cllr deLauney said some things had been left undone to see how staff functioned in the new location e.g.
  - Partition wall /screen – it was accepted that this would reduce the available space
  - New Lesley's room a vote was previously taken to retain the arch
  - Cllr Morris-Jones said his immediate concern was a lack of toilet provision and he felt there was a simple solution that we book the room out not Telford and Wrekin. It can therefore be booked so that people are informed that access would be required. Cllr deLauney felt this suggestion was unacceptable.
  - Cllr Fairclough wished the minutes to record her thanks to the Staff for taking on the work involved in the moving process and for keeping things going throughout. She felt that all staff had maintained a pleasant demeanour and are all hardworking people who deserve the thanks of the Council. She also wanted the involvement of staff in all decisions relating to the new premises as they are working there 5 days a week. Cllr deLauney confirmed members of staff are being consulted at every point.
  - Cllr Alvey said that consideration should be given to the new Lesley's room be made into a Mayor's parlour to entertain dignitaries and VIP's. We have a table

and high back chairs in storage which have a social value and could be placed in the new Mayors' parlour. Cllr deLauney said this decision was made a while ago and it might be a nice idea but we need the income from renting out both rooms.

- Cllr Alvey added that staff have nowhere near enough storage space.
- Cllr Burns said we have not made any mistakes we are doing what we wanted to and we decided to wait until staff had moved into the space before any further decisions were made, the Clerk suggesting a period of 3 months at the time.
- Visioning – members had discussed this issue as the Chairman felt the process was not completed last time. The Clerk had been asked to approach Professor Copus to be facilitator.

**26.0 Annual Audit** – Cllr deLauney proposed acceptance of the internal auditors report and approval of the Town Council's accounts for 2016/17 and to authorise signature of the Accounts and Annual Governance statement (copies previously supplied to members by email) and was seconded by Cllr Alvey. Cllr deLauney said that minor changes would be made to our Financial Standing Orders to ensure a clear audit report next time. Members RESOLVED unanimously to accept the reports and instructed the Mayor and the Clerk to sign the Governance statement witnessed by members.

**27.0 Civic Protocols** – Cllr Morris-Jones expressed his grave concern that the Council is losing its Civic Pride. The high backed chairs were lovingly saved when the Urban District Council closed however we have decided there is no longer a place for them. A scroll used to be opened by the Clerk at the start of each council meeting and closed at the end is no longer on the wall. Photographs of past mayors are no longer on the walls and weren't kept up to date anyway. Cllr Morris-Jones said he personally had the mayoral chain extended and the engraving done. Immediate past mayor medals, Cllr Morris-Jones said was not awarded his medal at the last meeting, he had taken issue with it and common sense had prevailed. There are many artefacts from the Twinning Association, other Councils and organisations that are not on display. He appreciated that space was a premium and commented that people from outside are asking if we have had the bailiffs in, and areas look like a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand auction room .....where is our Civic Pride?

Cllr Morris-Jones said the number of members attending the full council meetings is decreasing now down to 75% and we have heard from the festival group that members are not getting involved; is it because 25% of our members do not live in Wellington and none of our staff do. He appealed to members to have Civic Pride in the Council.

Cllr McCarthy said this Council needs to decide if it is orientated around meetings / committees rather than improving services for the public which should be addressed in the visioning process.

The Mayor suggested that these were significant issues that need to be addressed. It was agreed that they be referred to Policy and Resources Committee and the office working group.

#### **28.0 Proposal from Cllr Burns to reinstate the following Working Groups –**

- **Visioning & Governance** - Cllr Burns said P&R had agreed to hold a further visioning day, he had previously written a plausible way forward and shared this with some members of the Council and was happy to share the document with all members. It was commented by Cllr Gorse that the P&R proposal to approach Professor Copus may not be the best solution because of his affiliation with the Labour party and to avoid complications at a later date. Cllr Lowe disagreed with this view. Cllr McCarthy said the choice of facilitator is really important to get the right skillset that can draw together priorities and opinions. Cllr deLauney said we had already voted in favour of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Visioning Event with an outside independent facilitator.

- **Parish Environmental Team Working Group** - A diary of work done had been tabled to members. Cllr Burns said Councillors can see the team is working hard but he felt that members should be encouraging, monitoring and supporting their work and reporting back to Council. The original ambitions included cutting hedges and looking after open spaces even looking after pensioner's gardens so he proposed the working group should be re-established. Cllr Burns proposed the reinstatement of the Environmental Working Group and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Gorse. A ballot was taken resulting in a tied vote and the Mayor decided to take this back to P&R committee.
- **Terms of Reference** - Cllr Mason-Morris said she was in agreement with the proposals to reinstate the above working groups requesting that the groups are formed with clear terms of reference, reporting back to this Council, identifying clear deliverables, with transparent, clear aims and objectives and are not allowed to drift on. A vote was taken resulting in a tied vote and the Mayor asked for it to be discussed at Policy and Resources committee.
- **Visioning Day** - Cllr deLauney said we have just voted to accept the P&R minutes and he felt there was no point to forming any working group until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Visioning Day has been held to complete the Visioning day work. **Visioning Group** – Cllr Mason-Morris suggested a Visioning Working Group should be formed to deliver what we want to achieve at the Visioning day. Cllr Morris-Jones said the work should be undertaken by P&R. Cllr Mason-Morris asked the Clerk if a working group could help her in her governance work, the Clerk said an email group could work to comment back on circulated examples of documents.

**29/17 Date of the next Full Council Meeting** – was agreed as 11th July 2017

**Signed .....**11th July 2017