

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Philip Morris-Jones MBE



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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 10th November 2015.

Present: Cllr P Morris-Jones, Mayor Cllr F Burns, Deputy Mayor

Cllr D Allen	Cllr M Hosken
Cllr J Alvey	Cllr P McCarthy
Cllr G Cook	Cllr C Brittain
Cllr S deLauney	Cllr M Hosken
Cllr S Fikeis	Cllr A Lowe
Cllr C Mason-Morris	Cllr J Gorse
Cllr R Perkins	Cllr A McClements
Cllr K Tomlinson	Cllr S Hall

In attendance: Matt Powell and Dominic Proud from the Transport Team at Telford and Wrekin, Karen Roper, Town Clerk, Mark Ireland, - the Vicar from All Saints Church, Frank Lauriello from the Chamber of Commerce and 5 members of the public

88/15 7.00pm Introduction - The Mayor welcomed everyone and invited Mark Ireland, the Vicar from All Saints Church, to lead the prayers at the start of the meeting. Reverend Ireland was also invited to comment on Remembrance Sunday, he thanked the organisers especially Caroline Mulvihill and the Royal British Legion and said he was very pleased with the attendance at the event which had been estimated as well over 1,000 people.

89/15 7.05pm Presentation on Car Parking in Wellington Report - The Mayor introduced Matt Powell and Dominic Proud from Telford & Wrekin Council who had been invited to present their findings and recommendations relating to parking in Wellington. All Councillors had been issued with a copy of the report.

Key points from the report were;

- There were 9 car parks run by the Borough in Wellington and indications are that these are filled up to capacity
- It was clearly identified that people from other areas are parking all day, free of charge, to use the rail service which renders spaces unavailable to shoppers in the town.
- There has been an increase in the comments received from the public
- It was decided set up a working group and do a full survey to identify issues
- The data collected shows that only around 10% of spaces are available in the daytime and Market Days are more pressured
- Disabled Parking spaces were generally available
- 3/4 of the tickets fining motorists issued across the Borough are issued in Wellington
- There were difficulties described with enforcement and current physical observational

- checks are undertaken with varying accuracy
- A small number were proved to be wrongly ticketed
- Current parking signs meet the legal standard but could be improved
- ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) systems had been considered but were only legal on private ground.

Recommendations were:

- Installation of parking machines not collecting cash but issuing a ticket indicating time of arrival making enforcement easier and more accurate.
- There may be some reorganisation of spaces resulting in a small increase of spaces and a different split between long and short stay parking which could help.
- Funding for improvements is in the Borough's budget for this year only and there may not be any next year so action needs to be taken now.
- Signage would be improved

Comments made by Councillors were:

- Provision of a multi-story car park was previously discussed and the availability of suitable land should be explored.
- A feasibility study looking at parking provision for the future should be undertaken because the problem will not go away.
- Matt Powell said he would consider any suitable land that Councillors put forward.
- Has the provision of a full time parking enforcement person with a video recording device as for example operates in the Waitrose car park been considered. Should we be considering the employment of a full parking enforcement officer?
- The parking arrangements are confusing to visitors
- Cllr McClements said that decisions should be taken soon because funding may not be available in the new financial year
- Network Rail should be helping with this issue

The Mayor asked for Standing Orders to be lifted at 7.38pm to allow Ross Vickers and Frank Lauriello (Chamber of Commerce) to address the meeting.

- Mr Vickers said that there was some land located at Glebe Street that would be ideally placed to provide a car park.
- Mr. Lauriello said that the Chamber of Commerce will be liaising with Cllr McClements and the Transport Team on the report and he would consult Market Company and Chamber members for their views. He commented that he had received complaints about the ANPR system in Market Street.

Standing orders were reinstated 7.42pm

Cllr Gorse said the idea of a ticket machine was simple and it would be easier to enforce penalties. Cllr deLauney also felt this idea was excellent that needed to be 'sold' positively to users. He acknowledged there was no ideal solution but suggested that anyone wishing to park for over 6 hours should be charged particularly around the station area. The Mayor thanked Matt and Dominic for their presentations and it was agreed that the issue would be further discussed at the Policy and Resources meeting.

Matt Powell, Dominic Proud, Frank Lauriello and Mark Ireland left the meeting at 7.45pm

90/15 Apologies for Absence

L. Carter- Illness
D. Roberts– Illness
Cllr P Fairclough – Holiday
Apologies accepted

91/15 Cllr McCarthy - commented that these meetings seem to start at different times and he expressed disappointment that it seems that Item 8 had already been discussed before he had arrived. The Mayor assured him that the item had not yet been taken and he would have the opportunity to speak when item 8 comes up on the agenda.

92/15 The Mayor gave the following report of his activities since the last meeting

Date 2015	Event attended
16 th October	Wellington Boxing Academy Sportsman’s Evening
17 th October	Launch of Literary Festival Polly Toynbee
19 th October	Dothill School Assembly - thanks for PE equipment.
21 st October	Tadlop Evita @ The Place Oakengates
23 rd October	Deputy Mayor attended Er call Wood School – Flying their Plane
25 th October	RAF Shrewsbury (supporting Soldiers Charity)
8 th November	Remembrance Day
8 th November	Festival of Light
9 th November	Remembrance Concert

Cllr Mason –Morris asked that the Mayors diary be put on the website.

93/15 Declarations of Interest

Members only need declare any interest they may have in items of business in this Agenda.
None declared.

94/15 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2015

It was PROPOSED by Cllr deLauney seconded Cllr Allen and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

95/15 Matters arising from those minutes:

- **Signage 84/15** – Councillor McClements reported that the issue previously raised by Cllr Roberts, namely, the gateway signage from the East is due to be installed and completed by January.
- **Minute 70/15 Memorial Bench and Tree for Dale Childs** – Cllr Burns said a suitable position for the bench had been agreed with the Police and the young people will be bringing the money they had collected and presenting it to the Town Council. Town Council staff would then project manage the installation of the bench and planting of the tree. It was proposed by Cllr Burns, seconded by Cllr Alvey and agreed to support the recommendation from P&R committee which was to offer additional assistance of up to £300.00 should there be any shortfall in funding the project.

96/15 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.

Planning Committee.

Cllr Perkins presented the following minutes;

28th October - Cllr Gorse said the minutes issued with the agenda had been superseded by a later version that had been issued to the Planning Committee Members only. The Clerk suggested that confirmation of the minutes for the 28th October be brought to the next meeting of full council. This was agreed by Council.

97/15 Promotions & Liaison Committee

Cllr Tomlinson proposed the minutes of the Promotions and Liaison Committee dated 28th October 2015, these were seconded by Cllr Allen, and RESOLVED that the minutes be received and action taken be endorsed.

Cllr Tomlinson made the following comments

- **Victorian Market** - Caroline Mulvihill had done a fantastic job with the organisation of the Victorian Market which will be taking place on 28th November. Costumes are to be provided by the Belfry theatre.
- **Christmas Switch on Event** – Saturday 21st November in Market Square and on 23rd November at Arleston, Shawbirch and Brooklands. Cllr Tomlinson asked that these events are supported.
- **Percy Simmonds Memorial Event** - Percy's family were really pleased and touched by the tribute.
- **Literary Festival** - Cllr Fairclough had done an excellent job with the festival and promotion of it again this year, she felt it was a shame that the press were not more supportive.
- **Remembrance Sunday** – Very well attended yet very little press coverage.
- **Walkers are Welcome** – Cllr Tomlinson said the organisation had been tremendously supportive she was waiting to hold a further meeting with Andrew Careless.
- **The Christmas Leaflet** – Cllr Mason-Morris asked why this had been reported as costing £300.00 at P&L Committee, later quoted as £500.00 at P&R Committee, and why it had gone to both Committees? The Clerk said that the extra money was a donation towards the house to house distribution. Cllr deLauney said that Policy and Resources had discussed it and made recommendations because it was a 'communication' which falls under the P&R remit.

98/15 Policy & Resources Committee

It was proposed by Cllr deLauney, seconded Cllr Gorse, and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 3rd November 2015 at 7.00pm be received and action taken be endorsed. Cllr Alvey pointed out that the minutes Ref: no 95/15, reported the date of the last minutes to be approved was incorrect, this would be amended to read 6th October 2015.

Matters Arising from the Policy and Resources Meeting Starting at 7.00pm

- **Website / Facebook** – Cllr Mason- Morris said it was admirable that the Clerk had listed her requirements/ expectations of the new website (minute ref. number 105/15) but she was disappointed that these were not included on the example sent out to Councillors for comment. The Clerk said the website was a draft and she had been assured that

everything she had asked for could be accommodated by our website provider.

- **Visioning/Planning Event** – The Clerk had received a quotation of £1,600 to facilitate an event and was exploring alternative quotations.
- **Sound Proofing** – Cllr Gorse asked about the whole concept of managing the sound problem and enquired about a sound cut off device which had previously been identified when the levels became too high. The Clerk said she had a meeting with the Centre Manager to discuss this issue next week.
- **Market Street Works** – Cllr Alvey said he had heard that the work on Market Street had been very much appreciated but there were some outstanding issues. Cllr deLauney said he had a meeting set up with Matt Powell, the Clerk and Cllr McClements to discuss the following;
 - Signage needs to be in place to warn of the shared space and to limit the size of vehicles entering from Church Street / Market Street junction
 - No waiting red lines outside the bank
 - Reduction of speed limits through the town
 - Installation of speed bumps / rumble strips to be considered
 - Conversion of the taxi rank into limited wait public parking
- **Office Accommodation Update** – The contract to prepare the detailed drawings for the office had been awarded.
- **The Little Business Directory** - Cllr deLauney informed members that P&R had taken the unusual step of inviting one of the applicants for grant funding to present to the committee. Originally it was thought that that the bid was connected to the Pride in the Community Fund but it was proved that this was not the case. P&R committee had agreed that £1,000 should be awarded to support the setup of the directory which would become self-financing.
- **Wrekin News** - The Mayor informed members that a proportion of the cost being quoted was to change the printing equipment to read 'Wellington News' and was this actually necessary? Cllr deLauney said the print deadline for the Christmas Lights switch on had been missed and further discussions would be held.
- **Website** – Councillor Burns commented that the Council needs to bear in mind the staff time implications involved taking this forward. Cllr Mason-Morris said it was disappointing that the link Councillors were sent this week did not include the items indicated at minute Ref: 105/15.
- **Parish Environmental Team (PET)** – Cllr deLauney reported on two successful meetings with the affected employee stating that agreement had been reached on working hours and arrangements. This project could now move forward and a fully costed report would be presented to the January meeting of the Council.
- **Budget** - Members had been issued with a draft budget. The Cllr deLauney asked members to bear in mind the Council Tax Support Grant will be reduced again this year but at this point in time we do not know by how much. This information will be available at the January meeting and we are lucky that Telford and Wrekin Borough are still passing over the grant as many others do not. The Groups will consider the presented

draft budget and bring their suggestions to a meeting of group leaders. The Mayor asked for the word 'liaison' to be reinstated in the budget heading rather than 'tourism'.

99/15 Wellington Conservation Area Working Group Report 28th October 2015

The Town Clerk informed members that the Deputy Clerk was off sick and she had not located his notes to write up the minutes of this meeting. Cllr Allen gave the following overview.

- (i) **Friends of Dothill Group**: Cllr Allen reported that the recent public meeting had been well attended was successful and well supported by the Angling Association.
- (ii) **Calendar** – An excellent calendar had been produced with views around the Lake.
- (iii) **Angling Bailiff**: It was reported that the Bailiff was offering fishing lessons as well as doing a large amount of work around the lake.
- (iv) **Path Clearance** - Cllr Allen commented on the huge amount of path clearance work being done by Walkers are Welcome.
- (v) **Resurfacing** - Following the clearance work, the paths now need to be surfaced with gravel so they can be used by prams, pushchairs and wheelchairs.
- (vi) **Platforms** - Cllr Allen said that rot proof platforms also need to be erected around the lake at a cost of £2,000 each.
- (vii) **Other areas requiring attention** - Cllr Alvey said that Oaken Acorn project, Atlas Grove route had been badly damaged and subsequently closed. He requested the group look at this and resurrect it. It was agreed this would be considered.
- (viii) **Thanks** - The Mayor asked that the thanks of the Council are passed on to the volunteers for their excellent work.
- (ix) **Pool** - It was reported that the pond next to Dothill School had been cleared of several supermarket trollies, 10 days later another trolley was left in the middle of the pond. Cllr Tomlinson said this had been reported and this was also the site of the Greater Crested Newts that were found when fighting the application of the erection of the pub.

The minutes of 28th October would be confirmed at the December Full Council meeting.

100/15 Grants Presentation Evening –

It was proposed by Cllr deLauney and seconded by Cllr Allen to accept the Town Clerks' report.

101/15 2015 Literary Festival Report

It was proposed by Cllr deLauney and seconded by Cllr Allen to accept the written report from Cllr Fairclough.

102/15 Remembrance Day 2015 -

Cllr McCarthy addressed the Council to express his views on the treatment of George Evans, pacifism, the glorification of war by the clergy and geo political principals. The Mayor asked Cllr McCarthy to cease his speech and to be seated several times as this item was not on the agenda. Cllr McCarthy continued with his speech. Members started to leave and the Town Clerk advised the Mayor to adjourn the meeting which he did at 8.30pm.

Signed8th December 2015