

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016, starting at 7.00pm.

**Present:**

Cllr P Morris-Jones, Mayor	
Cllr D Allen	Cllr M Hosken
Cllr S Fikeis	Cllr K Tomlinson
Cllr G Cook	Cllr C Brittain
Cllr S deLauney	Cllr S Hall
Cllr L Carter	Cllr J Gorse
Cllr D Roberts	Cllr R Perkins
Cllr P Fairclough	Cllr A Lowe
Cllr A McClements	Cllr Burns and
Cllr C Mason-Morris	Cllr L Tillotson

**In attendance:** - Richard Kirby from All Saints Church, Karen Roper, Town Clerk, Shropshire Star representative and 3 members of the public.

**113/15 7.00pm Introduction and Welcome** - The Mayor wished everyone a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year. He asked Members to join him in wishing former Councillor Graham Riley sincere congratulations on being awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM). This is well deserved and recognised all the hard work, done on behalf of this Council, the Kidney Patients Association and the Hospice. The Mayor asked that a card congratulating him is sent on behalf of the Council. This was agreed by Members. He then invited Reverend Richard Kirby, from All Saints Church, to lead the prayers.

**114/15 Presentation - Literary Festival** - The Mayor invited Cllr Fairclough to make a presentation of the Crest shield to Kate Boulter. Cllr Fairclough thanked Kate for all her hard work. Ms Boulter commented that she had been very proud to be involved in the Literary Festival but had noticed that entries for the children's poetry competition had dropped off in recent years. She felt the reasons for this could be the pressure of the changing curriculum for schools. Cllr Fairclough said that Mr and Mrs Marmion were unable to attend this evening due to illness. Despite this, they had worked hard, attended many of the events and deserved to be recognised. On behalf of the Council and the Festival Committee she would ensure they received the Council shield to recognise their commitment.

**115/15 Telford After Care Team (TACT)** – The Mayor introduced Mr. Robert Eyers who gave a brief overview of the work of his organisation. Councillors were fully supportive of TACT and praised the work of Mr Eyers.

**116/15 Apologies for Absence** – Were received and noted from:  
Cllr J Alvey due to holiday and Cllr P McCarthy, unable to attend due to other commitments.

**117/15 Declarations of Interest** – Members only need declare any interest they may have in items of business on this Agenda. None were declared.

**118/15 The Mayor gave the following report of his activities since the last meeting**

Date 2015/6	Event attended
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Visit to TACT – Robert Eyers
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Belmont Hall Christmas Dinner
Evening	Preview panto at Oakengates Theatre
15 <sup>th</sup> December	White House, New College Awards Evening & Dothill School Visit
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Charton School, Party for Senior Citizens
Afternoon	Hair Extreme – to see Bridget donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust.
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Carol Concert at the Church of the Latter Day Saints
10 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Church Service led by Mark Ireland

**119/15 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Hosken seconded by Cllr deLauney and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

**120/15 Matters arising from those minutes:**

**Visioning Event Update** – The Clerk said that she had been in contact with a facilitator who was proposing the date of the event to be 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016, times were still to be agreed. A meeting was arranged for the end of next week to discuss finer details and members were invited to email any comments, subjects for discussion to the Clerk.

**Website Update** – The Clerk said that work had been done on the website and links were now working. Cllr deLauney commented that although not yet perfect, the website looks good. The Clerk said that the site can offer Councillors a generic e mail address in addition to a personal, twitter and face book page if required. The Clerk also confirmed that the Town Council’s social media activities would continue.

**121/15 To approve the Town Budget for 2016/17 and to Levy a Precept (budget attached).**

Cllr deLauney said that last year the precept was reduced but this year the precept figure is proposed as £331,500, an increase of 3.28% amounting to a charge of £51.90 per annum on a band D property, less than £1.00 per week. He commented that Wellington Town Council still charges a lower Council Tax figure lower than most of the other Towns in the area and this budget was supported by all parties at the recent Policy and Resources meeting. Cllr Lowe asked for identification of a Council Tax rebate of £15,000 within the figures. Cllr deLauney said that the Council Tax Support grant had not been confirmed by the Borough so it was felt appropriate to adopt a cautious approach and not include it in this year’s figures. Cllr Lowe said that the budget within the column heading 14/15 shows a contingency of £4,500 and requested an explanation of what had happened to this figure. Cllr deLauney explained the 2014/15 column heading is shown as ‘actual’ and it should be shown as ‘budget’, this was identified as a typing error. Cllr deLauney proposed acceptance of the budget and precept this was seconded by Cllr Hosken all were in favour.

**122/15 To receive information on Telford & Wrekin’s Budget** – Cllr Carter reported that the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review indicated that Local Government was facing a reduction in funding over the next 4 years of 53% or £6 Billion. Additionally, the introduction of a new Social Care precept will add 2% to local council tax bills, the revenue

ring fenced to provide social care. A new Apprenticeship Tax will add an additional payroll tax on the local authority of approx. £300,000. For Telford and Wrekin Borough, this means a 20.81% cut from the budget for next year. Over the next 2 years approximately £20 million of savings and provision for cost pressures of about £10 million mostly for adult social care and children's safeguarding will need to be found.

Calculations have changed in relation to Councils' core spending power. This equates to Telford and Wrekin being 8% below the national average in terms of spending power. This translates to an £11 million shortfall for the Borough and the loss in spending for Wellington of £1.6M or £64 per head of population in the town.

The Borough have launched a consultation on a 2 year strategy, at the heart of this is that they will always protect the most vulnerable regardless of the cost. They have also pledged to maintain support to parish and town councils through payment of the Council Tax Support Grant amounting to £15,000 for Wellington this year, one of the few principal authorities to continue to pass this on.

Of the 194 savings proposals within the consultation, 32 contentious ones have been put in year 2 with money and resources set aside from Director level downwards to discuss and work with other groups including Parish and Town Councils to help to prevent the loss of local services.

Cllr Carter highlighted the dates of local events taking place to consult on the budget and he hoped the Town Council will take the opportunity to work together with the Borough for the good of the community.

Cllr McClements said she would be working with residents and local organisations to support services in particular to keep Arleston's Community Centre open.

Cllr McClements proposed that the Council write to Mark Prichard to support a Fair Funding Deal for Telford this proposal was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members.

### **123/15 Civic Centre and Management Committee and Health Suite Management Committee –**

Cllr Burns reported that at the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> December, members recommended to accept the new agreement which covered the maintenance and running costs of the building. Cllr deLauney explained that the view of Policy and Resources was to disagree with the decision. It was agreed that the Town Council should do further investigation and negotiation on the figures presented by the Borough Council.

### **124/15 To receive the minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.**

#### **1.124 Planning Committee.**

Planning Committee Minutes were presented by Cllr Perkins 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Roberts for the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 –

Cllr Perkins commented on the refusal of the application relating to the Land to the North of Haygate Road Wellington (290 dwellings) recognising that any proposed development must be in the correct format. Cllr Hosken said no decision had been made nor will it be made until the issue is considered by the inspectorate in February. Cllr Perkins apologised for his mistake and withdrew his remark.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes are received and action taken be endorsed

#### **2.124 Literary Festival Committee**

Cllr Fairclough was invited to present the minutes for the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015. She confirmed her intention to step down from the Chairmanship and reported that next year is the 20<sup>th</sup> Wellington Literary Festival. The following was agreed at the meeting;

- The name will be 'The Wellington Festival'
- The length of the Festival would be reduced to about 2 weeks
- The scope would be extended to include other categories, including drama, music and painting.
- Mr & Mrs Marmian had resigned and their contribution would be missed.
- Cllr Mason Morris had agreed to shadow Cllr Fairclough until she steps down in May 2016, the position of Chairman would then be elected by the Annual General Meeting.

Cllr Burns asked for the Council to give its sincere thanks to Cllr Fairclough for all her dedicated work and congratulated Cllr Mason-Morris on her appointment. Cllr Tomlinson said due to other commitments she was unable to make these meetings and asked for consideration of rescheduling the meetings.

Cllr deLauney suggested that the Committee is renamed as indicated in the committee minutes, all agreed.

### **3.124 Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Lowe, seconded Cllr Hall, and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 at 7.00pm be received and action taken be endorsed.

#### **Cllr deLauney gave the following report from the Policy and Resources Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

- **Office Accommodation** – Cllr Tomlinson commented that the office is cramped and she felt that Lesley's Room was unsuitable to store filing cabinets. Cllr Gorse said the discussion at the meeting was much wider than that recorded and was actually about looking at all the options before spending public money. Cllr Hosken commented that the rooms are problematic but functional office furniture in the Clerks' room might help to update the office. Cllr Morris-Jones commented that the current furniture is antique and of historical value so he would like to see it rehomed and only as a last resort sold. Cllr deLauney reminded members of their previous decision to commission drawings for an extension.
- **PET Team** – Negotiations are on-going and a further meeting is due to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Bowring** – Cllr delauney reported works are now completed awaiting final inspection and then the final bill can be paid. The Café lease will be advertised to specify the Councils' requirements. Cllr Burns asked that the lease include loaning of equipment, Cllr Roberts commented on the lack of space within the Café and asked that this issue be considered at the next P&R meeting.
- **ICT Working Group** – The Clerk reported the group is working to deliver an outline proposal to the next Full Council meeting.

#### **125/15 Cllr R. Perkins appointment as Vice Chairman of SALC. –**

Cllr Perkins said he felt the organisation needed revitalising. The Mayor asked that he keeps the Council informed and members applauded his achievement.

### **126/15 To Approve draft Complaints Procedure Policy (document tabled)**

The Clerk explained this is an evolving document, and she would welcome comments for any improvements. Cllr Roberts suggested the addition of accompanied attendance at meetings. The Clerk would action.

Cllr Hosken congratulated staff on producing a well thought out document and proposed acceptance, this was by 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Allen and agreed by members.

### **127/15 Correspondence - To receive matters for information only**

- **Wrekin Lions Club** - The Clerk reported receipt of an email from Brian Ward informing the Council that from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the organisations does not exist.
- **Gas Works Bench** - Cllr Burns reported on progress of the bench and inscription. The young people are happy to raise more money to support the park. Cllr Tomlinson suggested inviting children and young people to the Council meeting to interact with the Council and hear their ideas. Cllr Burns agreed to invite them.
- **Notification of Meeting** – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016, the Destination Programme Team is launching the Visitor Economy Forum in the Great Oak Room – SC207, University of Wolverhampton, Priorslee Campus, Shifnal Road, Telford TF2 9NT 10.30am – 12.30pm all are welcome.
- **Future Fit** - To Note the presentation previously sent by email on 07.01.16
- **Car Parking** – Cllr McClements gave an update on the implementation of the barriers T&W council are undertaking a consultation process at Newport. In Wellington the system should be in place by the new financial year. The Clerk brought to members attention a further letter received on the Wilkinson's car park. Cllr Tomlinson asked the Clerk to write to stop the evening restrictions. The Clerk responded stating letters were sent in December but no response has been received, she was requested to follow this up.
- **Christmas Lighting** – The Clerk reported notification from a member of the public regarding the lack of performance this year. The Mayor said Members should be monitoring the lights. The Clerk said this year had been the final year of a 3 year contract and there will need to be a tendering process shortly. Cllr Lowe asked that the tenders take in account any call out charges.
- **Bowring** – The Clerk reported that Cllr Hosken has allocated £365.00 of his Borough Councillors funding to pay for the licence at the Bowring.
- **Buckingham Palace** – the Clerk notified members of the opportunity to apply for a place.
- **Anonymous Railway Buff** – Cllr Roberts reported she had received communication about the West Midlands Franchise, who were holding a meeting at Shrewsbury Station on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 3.30-8.00pm. The link would be forwarded to members.
- **Street Pasteur's** – The Mayor suggested members read the report as they do a great job on the weekend and the Council should support them.
- **To approve this year's next meeting dates and times (copy attached)** – Cllr Burns asked for a further community meeting date to be added. Cllr deLauney proposed that we agree the dates of Full Council Meetings only and the Committees set their own

dates. Cllr Allen proposed the Council meetings are as stated, other dates as indicated and agreed up to end of April 2016 then the newly appointed Committees will set their own dates. Cllr deLauney withdrew his original proposal and seconded Cllr Allen's proposal, members agreed.

- To agree date and time of the next meeting:– Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

Signed .....9<sup>th</sup> February 2016