

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Denis Allen



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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday 10th October 2017 commencing at 7:05pm.

Present:

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

- 50/17 In attendance** -Reverend Tim Carter from All Saints Church, Karen Roper– Town Clerk and 6 members of the public (see signing in sheet).
- 51/17 Introduction and Welcome** – The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that she was acting as Chair as a result of Cllr Allen being unwell. She then called on Reverend Carter to take prayers. The Deputy Mayor thanked Reverend Carter and invited him to remain for the rest of the meeting.
- 52/17 Apologies** – Were received from Cllrs Allen, Roberts and Fikeis. Members proposed and agreed acceptance of the apologies.
- 53/17 Declarations of Interests** – None were declared at this time.
- 54/17 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12th September 2017** – It was proposed by Cllr Alvey seconded by Cllr Gorse and resolved by members to accept the minutes as a true record.
- 55/17 Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
- 56/17 To receive the Minutes of Wellington Town Council Committees and to consider and deal with the recommendations therein.** - Cllr Mason-Morris asked members to try to comment and raise issues in the same order as in the minutes.

Planning Committee –

56.1 Minutes of Planning Meeting held on 06.09.17 – Were presented by Cllr Alvey, seconded by Cllr Gorse and agreed by members as a true record.

Cllr Brittain joined the meeting at 7.07 pm

a) Minute Ref: 59/17 Examination of the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan 2011 – 2031: Consultation on Proposed Main Modifications - Cllr Alvey drew to members' attention

to the above in relation to the resulting increase in traffic which would be caused by the proposal to increase housing units from 15k up to 17k. Members had requested an explanation of the reasons for this decision.

Cllr McCarthy Joined the meeting at 7.10pm

b) APPLICATION Ref TWC/2017/0590 36 Admaston Road TF1 3NL - Cllr Jinks spoke on behalf of the applicants whose submission had been refused. She explained that the purpose built space is for a disabled child in need of a hoist and the original architect had failed to recognise the ceiling height needed for the equipment. This application was a request to raise the roof by the required amount. It was proposed by Cllr Morris-Jones and seconded by Cllr Jinks that the Council write in support asking Telford and Wrekin to urgently reconsider their decision to refuse this application. Members voted and were in agreement that the Town Council would do everything possible to help.

56.2 Minutes of Planning Meeting held on 27.09.17 – Were presented by Cllr Alvey, seconded by Cllr Burns and agreed as a true record. Comments were made about the following issues;

a) APPLICATION ref TWC/2008/0108 Orleton Park, Orleton Lane, Wellington; Cllr Alvey commented that this development was seeking to reduce its affordable housing delivery from 25% to 0%, the Planning Committee members were unhappy about this action and had reported their view to Telford and Wrekin.

b) APPLICATION ref TWC/2017/0696; Site 27 & 31 High Street, Wellington; this application seeks to increase the number of residential units from 12 to 13 and the committee objected to this proposal on the grounds of overdevelopment.

c) APPLICATION ref TWC/2017/0706; Site of the Swan Hotel, Watling Street Wellington; The committee objected to this proposal seeking to place a residential development on the site due to the very busy and dangerous access and egress.

56.3 Promotions & Liaison Committee meeting held on 27th September 2017– Councillor Carter presented the minutes for noting only as the meeting was not quorate. These were 2nd by Cllr Fairclough and Cllr Mason-Morris said her apologies had not been recorded. The following points were noted;

a) Terms of Reference - For the P&L Committee would be brought back to the next meeting

b) Train Station Roof – Cllr McClements informed members she had written letters to network rail in July and had received a response indicating that the issue had been prioritised.

c) Arleston Christmas Lights – Cllr Gorse had met with the Councils' lighting contractors and a way forward to improve the display had been agreed costing an extra £500.00. This budget had been agreed by the Chairman of Policy and Resources and the Town Clerk as the order needed to be placed by the contractor quickly. Cllr Morris-Jones said he felt it was unfair that lighting displays at Brooklands and Shawbirch had not also been considered for enhancement. It was agreed that this would happen for next year's display as the request is now too late for this year. Cllr Gorse said that January was the right time to buy new displays.

d) Minutes ref: 51/17 (3) 'Muriel' noted in the minutes should actually read mural.

e) Page 4 ref 55/77 - Cllr Alvey commented that the term 'Winterfest' would not be used and the poster situated at the train station would be amended to read 'The Christmas Festival'.

56.4 Wellington Festival Committee Meeting held on 21st September 2017 – Councillor Mason–Morris reported this meeting was not quorate. The minutes were seconded by Cllr Gorse. Cllr Alvey suggested reasons for apologies should be recorded, Cllr Mason-

Morris said this might not be appropriate but requested the Town Clerk look into the issue. Councillor Mason-Morris said the Festival starts on 13th October and the Mayor had said he would help where he can. All Councillors were asked to assist with the events over the 2 week period.

56.5 Minutes of the Grants Panel dated 3rd October 2017 - Were presented by Cllr deLauney. Grants had awarded to all applicants except one which was on hold because members felt they needed further information and when obtained, would come back to a future meeting for consideration. Cllr Alvey said he had been Treasurer of People Of Wellington (POW) festival initially, but he now wanted members to know has no financial standing in this organisation.

56.6 Policy and Resources Committee Dated 3rd October 2017, Minutes were presented by Cllr deLauney, seconded by Cllr Hosken and agreed by members as a true record.

a) Banking – Cllr Morris-Jones commented on minute Ref: 63/17. He said the minute should record that not just himself, but also Cllr Fairclough together with the Deputy Clerk would be happy to make themselves available to visit the Bank to try to resolve the issues.

b) Selective Licencing Scheme Presentation – Members felt that they would be willing to offer support and it was commented that the presenters were full of praise for Cllr Carter.

c) Office Move – Cllr deLauney said that progress was being made with the leases and we are waiting for the final report from our independent Solicitor. Cllr Morris-Jones said that progress on the alterations is embarrassingly slow in his view and suggested that some target dates are put into place. Cllr deLauney said that a breakdown of costs for the alterations has been requested and it is a fantastic deal we have had from the Borough with rates, heating, lighting and water included.

d) External Auditor – Cllr deLauney said the Council's Accounts had now been cleared by the External Auditor.

e) Invoices – Cllr Luter questioned the payment of the Bridge House invoice that was not itemised and had no VAT number and he felt this was unacceptable. Cllr deLauney said he used his casting vote to pay the invoice because an Officer of this Council had given authority to spend up to £600.00 on refreshments at this event. Cllr Morris-Jones said that in this instance the invoice for £400.00 was against an estimate of £600.00 should be paid to honour the deal and the way people run their business is of no interest to us but we should make sure it should not happen again. Cllr Burns said he would have liked to see back up paperwork and agreed the situation should not be allowed to happen again. Cllr Alvey said there were sensitivities around this and that lessons will be learned. Cllr Carter said that we will be reviewing our processes and any payments should only be made against purchase orders in the future including budget spending within Committees. He said there was unease around this this invoice because of who raised it and their interests within that company. Cllr deLauney said it is a difficult situation if a Councillor asks a Council to pay its money to an organisation they have close links to and in future members should be warned about putting themselves in this position.

f) Bowring – Cllr deLauney said the idea to move the access road from the front to the back of the café for safety purposes is excelled but there is an oak tree with a TPO and an established holly bush in the way. Cllr Morris-Jones said another way must be found as a child ran out and there was nearly a serious accident at the weekend. Cllr Hosken said nothing will happen to the 200 year old Oak tree or the holly bush whilst he is alive, he would take every action necessary to protect it and that there could be removable bollard(s) installed instead of moving the access. He added that the café tenant is finding it very difficult to make a living from the establishment. Cllr Burns said that T&W are looking at appropriate planters to assist with control traffic.

g) Parking Contribution – Cllr deLauney said the cost of having the ticket machines also

means employment of a man has to go around filling them up and maintaining them. So if we request a share of the takings we must be prepared to contribute to the on-going running costs. It was therefore proposed the Town Council makes a contribution towards the capital costs. Cllr Burns reported the short stay parking scheme had been a success and the Borough have been extremely cooperative. Therefore P&R members felt we should play our part working in collaboration with the Borough and offering a small contribution towards the costs.

h) Visioning Event Saturday 7th October 2017– The Clerk had tabled a report detailing the results. Cllr deLauney said he felt it was disappointing that only 11 of 21 Councillors were able to attend this important event. Cllr Alvey stated there were some wonderful ideas, and the challenge is how these should be taken forward. Cllr Mason-Morris said she felt it was an excellent day and well facilitated, these comments were endorsed by Cllr Lowe, who added that refreshingly, no one was being political on the day and the facilitator was excellent. Cllr McClements said although unfortunately she could not be at the event, she would like to see some real results from the exercise. Cllr Morris-Jones said he would not like hours and hours spent on discussions and no decisions being made. The Chairman said the report would be discussed at the next P&R meeting and members were invited to send comments to the Town Clerk by email. Cllr Jinks said it was an amazing event and asked members to go to their electorate to seek views on how they would spend a sum of money in Wellington, suggesting a choice between supporting the Market or bringing 4 Market Square back into use. Cllr Burns said he would have liked things to have gone a bit further, by looking closer at the ‘how’ and was concerned that 10 members were unable to contribute. He therefore proposed that each Committee should have the report at the forefront of their agenda and bring back written comments and suggestions. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Fairclough and following a vote was agreed by members. Cllr Gorse thanked the Clerk for the quick turnaround of the report and asked that a letter of thanks is sent to Rob Francis for being an excellent facilitator,

7.40pm Cllr Tomlinson joined the meeting and added that although she could not attend the event due to illness she would like to see some real progress / action on the outcomes.

57/17 To Receive Urgent Matters (for information only)

- a. **West Team Work List** – This was circulated to all members for information
- b. **Report from Fay Easton** - A written report giving an update on the Town Centre news was circulated to members.
- c. **Integrated Community Management Report** – A written report was circulated at the meeting
- d. **Dunelm Site Planning Consultation** – It was reported that an exhibition will be held within the former Dunelm Store - entrance via Bridge Road- on Friday the 13th of October, between 10am to 4pm, and Saturday the 14th of October, between 10am and 2pm.
- e. **New Standing Orders** –The Clerk had distributed a copy of updated Standing Orders and requested that members look through these and feedback their comments.
- f. **Community Engagement Strategy** - The Clerk had distributed a copy of a Community Engagement Strategy and requested that members look through this and feedback their comments

58/17 To agree the date of the next meeting: as – 14th November 2017

59/17 The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed14th November 2017