

Wellington Town Council



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PROMOTIONS & LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on **Wednesday 25th July 2018** commencing at 11.00am.

Present:

Cllr Lee Carter	Mary Rodgers
Cllr Cindy Mason-Morris	Ross Vickers
Cllr Angela McClements – in part	Hilary – member of the public
Cllr Joan Gorse	Sarah Chard - Orbit
Cllr Sylvia Hall	Bob Coalbran
Cllr Chris Brittain	Sheila Heston and Jean
Cllr John Alvey	Wordsworth - Lions
	John Sweetland
	Kath Howard

In attendance: Andrew Roberts – Deputy Town Clerk

26/18 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Cllr Carter welcomed the Committee to the meeting and in particular welcomed Kath Howard and Sarah Chard to the meeting.

27/18 Apologies for Absence

Caroline Mulvihill – Communications and Events Manager, Cllr Pat Fairclough and Carol and Chris Hill – Hills Butchers. Apologies accepted.

28/18 Declarations of Interest

None received.

29/18 To confirm the minutes from the last meeting – Wednesday 27th June 2018.

Proposed by Cllr Alvey, seconded by Cllr Gorse and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

30/18 Matters arising from those minutes:

Minute 18/18 (i): Alleyway Mural:

The Deputy Clerk advised that planning approval had been obtained and that Cllr Carter remained in discussion with JD Wetherspoons seeking formal approval to the fixing of the mural on their wall adjacent to the alleyway. He also stated that there may be some funding in order to improve the current street furniture.

Minute 18/18 (ii) Lychgate Commemoration Boards – Update

The Deputy Clerk advised that Mick Talbot would clear the weeds and that Telford & Wrekin would be putting weed killer in order for the area to be cleared so that the Boards could then be installed. Mary Rogers – Wellington Remembers confirmed that she, Caroline Mulvihill and James Bayliss – Wrekin News would be meeting shortly in order to ascertain how the photographs would be displayed.

Minute 12/18 (ii) Demographic Figures

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that further enquiry had been made with Telford & Wrekin Council who had confirmed that there were no separate figures for Wellington and that any such figures would only be available for Telford & Wrekin as a whole.

Minute 19/18 (i) Art Project – Shortwood School

Members were informed that Fay Easton had suggested that the Half Way House on the Wrekin might be a better location than had been suggested. Caroline Mulvihill had arranged for contact to be made between the School and the owner of the Half Way House. Members were also advised that Caroline had contacted Highways at Telford & Wrekin Council with an additional request but was currently awaiting a response. Members of the Committee enquired about Fay Easton and as to whether she was undertaking any work within the Town, Cllr Carter confirmed the position in relation to Fay, although it was noted that she become involved with the volunteer group known as the Friend of Wellington Station.

Minute 24/18 (x) Bowring Café – Lions Day

It was reported that Cherie Hathaway had confirmed that she had been prepared to open the café on the recent Lions Day event, however this did not prove to be the case as she had suffered an injury prior to the Day.

Minute 18/18 Cllr Denis Allen Memorial Bench

It was reported that the memorial bench had now been installed within the Dothill LNR and that a picture of the bench had been published on Facebook.

Minute 24/18 Halifax Bank

It was confirmed by Cllr Alvey that the Halifax Bank was not closing.

Minute 24/18 Wellington Post Office

It was reported that a new franchisee was awaited for the shop element of the Post Office. Cllr Mason-Morris reported that she and the Town Clerk had recently met with the shop owner who provided an update on the shop premises. Although he had referred to some negative comments that had been published on various social

media, which he felt had not been of a positive effect.

Minute 24/18 Young High Street Challenge

Cllr Carter reported that the winners of the Young High Street Challenge were now working with Telford & Wrekin Council and also engaging with the Market Company and it was hoped that these preparations would enable their activities to commence in September.

31/18 Correspondence:

1) Over 60's Activity

Cllr Cindy Mason-Morris had sent an email to Caroline Mulvihill seeking a request for this item to be included within the agenda. She enquired as to whether it would be possible for the organisation of an event which was aimed at the over 60's, within the Wellington parish area. She referred to other parishes within Telford & Wrekin which offered other targeted activities for example Annual Christmas Dinners, Vouchers, Annual Coach Trips. She had researched the population within Wellington and had concluded that there was a higher proportion of over 60's in the Parish. Following a discussion it was agreed that research be undertaken with those other parishes who offer such a scheme, with a report back in October to Full Council. Cllr Carter referred to other parishes which offer a Gardening Service for such residents as well. Bob Coalbran further mentioned that a few years ago he had investigated the possibility of arranging for croquet aimed at the over 60's on the third bowling green within the Bowring Park. Cllr Carter agreed that he would investigate further with Telford & Wrekin Council and report back to a future meeting.

32/18 Forthcoming events calendar and additional events for 2018 / 2019 – Strategy /package and brand.

Nothing to report

33/18 Wellington Festival: Update report:

Cllr Mason-Morris said that the October festival would run 3rd to 21st. The programme details had been being finalised and the details would soon be sent to the printers for design.

She reminded the Committee that the May festival would become the main two week festival due in part to the better weather etc and that the October festival would be reduced to one week to make use of the light nights. Members were reminded of the need for volunteers to host the Festival events. Cllr Mason-Morris indicated that the main event being the Brass Band Concert which would feature the Brighthouse & Rastrick Brass Band was proving very popular with the event becoming "sold out" very soon.

John Sweetland indicated that the Belfry Drama Festival in October would be finalised in early course, however it was apparent that these details could not be included within the Wellington Festival brochure, due to time constraints. It was confirmed that this event could be promoted through the Town Council's social media channels.

34/18 Walkers are Welcome:

Bob Coalbran reported that the September Walking Festival programme had been finalised and that the brochure had now been printed, with the programme being distributed. He stated that there was a wider range of walking events this year which also included a number of walks on the Telford T50 50 Mile Trail as part of the Telford at 50 Celebrations. He requested as to whether details of the programme could be displayed on the Wellington Town Council Noticeboards.

Bob also advised the Committee that the Walkers are Welcome were also arranging a pack of information highlighting walking activities which would be provided for accommodation hosts within the Town.

35/18 Matters for information only:

Wellington Market – there was a wide ranging discussion in connection with the Indoor Market, particularly given the various concerns and discussions that were taking place within the Town. Cllr Alvey was concerned at the scaremongering that was circulating and that as a result there was a need for precise information being obtained. Kath Howard reported on a meeting that she had attended with Andrew Sparrow who had been requested to advise as to the Market's future plans. She reported that the meeting was advised that there were two phases in order for future growth the first being to instigate initiatives to attract new traders with a second phase being further investment. It was suggested that further discussions could be held at the next Town Council Regeneration Board. Ross Vickers referred to a letter that he had seen which indicated a different situation in that the Market Company were exploring the option of entering into a CVA arrangement with its creditors and that if any CVA could not be finalised by 6 August then they would need to enter into administration.

Cllr Carter advised the meeting that Telford & Wrekin Council were seeking to work with the Market Company and were in the process of discussing options for the future, although he did indicate that the Borough Council was a creditor. He did indicate that there was a long period of time and discussions to be held before the Market Company was in a position whereby it would have to close. Cllr Gorse questioned as to whether there was any way the Town Council could show its support to the Market in order to provide a message both to the current traders and residents that it was doing its best to support the Market, Cllr Mason-Morris confirmed that she had shared some of the market traders on her Mayor of Wellington Facebook page. She did highlight that some market traders in the past had moved from the Market into retail shops within the Town, which should be seen as a positive. Cllr Carter commented that all of the businesses within the Town needed supporting as well. Cllr Gorse commented as to whether there should be greater emphasis on the free car parking within the Town. Mary Rogers commented that there was a great amount of press that reported that most High Streets were encountering retail decline mainly as a result of alternative options being available. Cllr Carter referred to the Wellington 2020 Vision Report, which had indicated that there may well be change in retail opportunities and that the frustrations that may be experienced was that the speed of travel towards a destination was not quick enough. Cllr Carter commented that there was an element of the market traders who had been trading within the market for a number of years who were not in a

position or were unwilling to change some of their methods of trading, citing the reluctance to move to digital trading for example.

Mary Rogers – Wellington Remembers mentioned that during the group's research into Wellington residents who had served in the First World War they had discovered that a Wellington resident by the name of William Allison White had been awarded the Victoria Cross, although it was uncertain at this time as to how long he had resided in Wellington. It was confirmed that he had been killed in action on the 18 September 1918 and as to whether the flag should be flown at half-mast Cllr Mason-Morris confirmed that this could be the case as an element of the Town Council's flag policy allowed for the Mayor's discretion to be exercised. They were continuing to work with the Gratitude Café to display an exhibition of their work.

Belfry Arts Centre – John Sweetland reported that the adjacent car park was invariably filled early in the morning with motor vehicles causing subsequent difficulties for Centre users during the day, with no spaces being available.

Bowring Café – it was confirmed that the café would be opened on Tuesday 31 July, by the new operator.

Wellington Orbit Project – Sarah Chard reported that the premises which had been operating in the Market Square known as the Little Business Premises was now been used by the project team as a launchpad for their activities prior to the former HSBC bank premises becoming available. She indicated that the launchpad project would provide a small café operation and would also act as an office.

Station Approach resurfacing – Bob Coalbran referred to the ongoing issue surrounding the condition of this particular road. Cllr Carter referred to the ongoing discussion that had been sought with Network Rail, as part of Station Approach was unadopted, although he indicated that they were being a little evasive.

Friends of Bowring Park Group – Kath Howard requested that their group should be a standing item on future agendas.

36/18 To agree date and time of next meeting – Wednesday 22nd August 2018 at 11.00am.