

# Wellington Town Council

**Town Mayor**  
**Cllr Cindy Mason-Morris**



**Town Clerk**  
**KAREN ROPER**  
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## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Wellington Civic Offices on Tuesday  
10th July 2018 commencing at 7:05pm.**

### **Present:**

Cllr C. Mason-Morris – Town Mayor	Cllr G. Cook	Cllr J. Gorse
Cllr A. Lowe – Deputy Mayor	Cllr J. Alvey	Cllr S. Fikeis
Cllr M. Hosken	Cllr L. Jinks	Cllr S. deLauney
Cllr P. Morris-Jones MBE	Cllr P. McCarthy	Cllr J. Harris
Cllr P. Fairclough	Cllr L. Carter	Cllr A. McClements
Cllr G. Luter	Cllr C. Brittain	Cllr S. Hall
Cllr D. Roberts		

- **In attendance:** Karen Roper, Town Clerk, 5 members of the public, Cllr P. Watling, C. Jones and Sarah Dillon from Telford and Wrekin, Gemma Offland and Gill George from defend our NHS and Reverend Charlotte.

**Prayers** – Cllr Mason-Morris called on Reverend Charlotte to lead prayers.

### **33/18 The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Meeting and invited Paul Watling, Clive Jones and Sarah Dillon from Telford and Wrekin to discuss Adult Social Care.**

It was stated that Telford and Wrekin are consistently lobbying central Government for funding. They were proud that despite the continuous cuts no libraries or Children's centres had closed in Telford but acknowledged that Adult Social Care was more complicated. Specifically, help had been offered to the Wellington Cottage Care Trust (WCCT) asking them to look at new models of operation like the Newport Care Trust. The Care Act had given people choice and they have chosen not to attend traditional day care centres in favour of alternative provisions leading to reduced demand for the service. Cllr Alvey said 10-15% of Cottage Care users were self-funded.

The following points were made:

- People without money do not have a choice of service provision
- The alternative services people are accessing still need to be paid for
- It's not always about money, it's about a direct payment and personal choice
- The WCCT cannot be made to do anything and all 64 users of the services have been offered solutions to their needs
- Support has also been given to the staff to find alternative employment.

7.35pm The Mayor thanked P. Watling, C. Jones and S. Dillon for their attendance and they left the meeting.

Cllr McCarthy proposed the following Motion stating that the public are not aware of the level of cuts in Adult Social Care. He felt that T&W are not taking responsibility and gave examples of real people with real needs who were suffering because their requirements were not being met. Cllr Fairclough seconded the motion saying she felt really strongly about these issues.

*This Council is appalled at the closure of the Cottage Care Day Centre with loss of 64 places for our elderly. We call upon Telford and Wrekin Council to urgently reassess the cuts in Social Care which have directly impacted on the financial viability of this and other Centres and ask whether they still contend that they are able to provide their statutory duty of care to the most vulnerable in our society. We fear that the plight of Cottage Care users represents the tip of an iceberg. Wellington Council demands that this crisis is acknowledged and an all party meeting be called to look at strategies that can be adopted to increase Social Care funding including working with other Councils to put pressure on to Central Government for more financial support.*

Following long discussion, Cllr Carter proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Gorse.

*This Council is appalled at the closure of Cottage Care Day Centre with the loss of 64 places for our elderly. We call upon the Government to urgently reassess the cuts in Social Care which have directly impacted on the financial viability of this and other Centres and have made it difficult for local authorities to be able to provide their statutory duty of care to the most vulnerable in our society. We fear that the plight of Cottage Care's users represents the tip of an iceberg. Wellington Town Council demands that Telford and Wrekin continues to work with other Councils to put pressure on Central Government for more financial support.*

Cllr McCarthy exercised his right of reply and commented that T&W are responsible for funding the service and the removal of care packages is having a negative effect on the quality of life for the most vulnerable in our community. He added that T&W are spending money on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which could be diverted to Adult Social Care.

The Mayor put the amendment to the vote which was carried, 9 in favour 1 against.

**34/18 Gill George Defend Our NHS (DONHS)** – The Mayor introduced Gill who thanked Councillors for the invitation to address the Council. She said both Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals were in chaos because of pressures on medical beds causing people to be left on trollies in A&E and ambulances queuing up outside. The options of the Future Fit programme were discussed and it was stated that the programme's aim is about saving money and not about offering a good service for Telford. One in five nursing posts will be cut, medical beds reduced and there would be only one A&E department in the whole of Shropshire which, it was envisaged, would lead to a loss of life. Gill said she believed that the commissioners have already made up their minds. Defend our NHS's aim is to reject Future Fit and the dismantling the NHS. Local people will be the losers so she urged Councillors to disagree with both options of the Future Fit programme.

**Gemma Offland, SATH Unison**– The Mayor introduced Gemma Offland who recounted her experiences of cuts in Social Care on their impact on individuals.

Cllr Alvey said we are all aware that the NHS is under tremendous pressure against a background of increasing numbers of people and an ageing population. Despite this the NHS is still the envy of the world with great things being achieved every day.

Cllr Morris-Jones said in his view Future Fit is not fit for purpose, both A&E's are not coping at the moment and he could not see how these could be brought down to one. All the statistics show we need 2 hospitals. Currently the PRH seems to be neglected and services are being moved to Shrewsbury already. Future Fit need to be brought into the real world. Cllr McCarthy said the numbers cannot be reconciled for both beds and staff and he felt this was a way of privatising the NHS. Project Phoenix was mentioned which was reported to be about selling land belonging to the NHS to the private sector and leasing it back to them.

**35/18 Cllr McCarthy put the following proposal and was seconded by Cllr Fairclough.**

Cllr McCarthy said there are no winners with the Future Fit programme and the outcome will affect everybody, in his view it is just about cutting the budget. Cllr Fairclough commented that she felt that closing the either of the A&E departments is unthinkable and that members should object to both options.

*"This Council believes that the Future Fit consultation options of consolidating services between the PRH and RSH are not in the interests of any of the communities in the SaTH region. We observe that this 'Remodelling' of our health provisions has as its primary aim to reduce the costs incurred in providing the increasingly precarious health provision we currently enjoy. We reject option 1 and option 2 and advocate that our community respond in the same way when completing consultation forms. In promoting this view to our community this Council will hold a public meeting in conjunction with DONHS to promote both this public rejection and demand that Future Fit should begin again but with an agenda that meets all our community's needs".*

Cllr Carter said all credit to 'Save Our NHS' but he wished to see consistency from Wellington Town Council and gave examples over several years where this Council had consistently supported option 2. He said the motion asks us all to reject both proposals but his electors in College Ward would want to see services retained in Telford at the PRH. Cllr Roberts commented that she felt the process was being steered by medics at Shrewsbury and gave examples of the PRH being referred to as an 'annex' of the RSH. This was therefore a battle against Shrewsbury because any merger would lead to further side-lining of the PRH, so she felt that calling to restart Future Fit was a waste of time. Cllr Jinks said she had talked to her residents who would all wish for services at the PRH to be retained. Cllr McClements said in a perfect world we would all wish to see both A&E's retained. Cllrs Hosken and Harris said they had consistently fought to keep services at the PRH in Telford. Cllr Mason-Morris said that she could not chose an Option which would adversely affect the lives of patients anywhere in Shropshire so would be voting in favour of the Proposal.

Cllr McCarthy had the right of reply and said this is not just about residents in Telford, Future Fit needs to be looked at and started again as neither option is acceptable.

The motion was put to a recorded vote resulting in 3 in favour; Cllrs McCarthy, Fairclough and Mason-Morris

Against were Cllrs. Lowe, Hosken, Morris-Jones, Cook, Alvey, Jinks, Carter, Gorse, Fikeis, Harris, Brittain, McClements, Hall, Roberts and Luter.

One abstention, Cllr deLauney

The motion was lost.



- **Public Space Protection Order** – Cllr Jinks said that her electors were not prepared to wait for new legislation to come through in 2020 in respect of Dothill pools. Cllr Mason-Mason stated that she had recently attended a meeting that had been organised by Cllr Tomlinson, with Paul Fenn – Community Safety, Cohesion & Environmental Enforcement Group Manager at T&W Council. She reported that a Borough wide consultation, on this matter, was due to start early 2019 on this matter.
- **Minute Ref: 22/18;** Cllrs Alvey and Brittain felt that the comment from Insp. Gary Wade, indicating that the public should challenge the behaviour of cyclists, skateboarders etc. if there were no officers present was dangerous. They felt that people may be abused or assaulted by the perpetrators.
- **Orbit Group (formally the Clifton)** – Confidential minutes had been circulated to all Councillors. The P&R Committee recommend to Full Council that the deal goes ahead subject to working through the finer details which will to be confirmed in due course.
- **Bowring Café** – The Clerk and the Chairman of Policy and Resources had been delegated power to appoint a tenant as soon as possible. The Chairman said he was meeting with one applicant on Thursday at 10.00am. A further applicant was viewing the premises on Friday. Cllr Lowe said he felt the circulated lease was outdated and should have not been given to applicants. Cllr deLauney said there would be an informal offer to trade initially, the formal lease could be looked at later together with the applicant.

**42/18 To Agree that Cllr Cindy Mason-Morris is appointed as an additional bank signatory.**

It was proposed by Cllr Hosken and seconded by Cllr Morris-Jones to appoint Cllr Cindy Mason-Morris as our 3<sup>rd</sup> Bank Signatory. A vote was taken and all members agreed.

**43/18 Proposal from Cllr Luter, seconded by Cllr Cook.**

*"This Council is committed to ensuring that the Bowring Park provides the opportunity for social interaction and social inclusion whilst facilitating the development of community ties. It is therefore proposed that the Bowring Park Working Group is re-instated with seven members of the Full Council and up to two members of the Friends of the Bowring Park."*

Cllr Luter said he was on the Friends of Bowring Park (FOBP) group and had attended their recent meeting. The FOBP had come forward with some great ideas and formed a working group so he felt that the Council should reinstate the Bowring Park Working group to work with them to improve the Park.

Cllr Roberts suggested that rather than create another Committee, two Council representatives could be appointed to report back to Council from the existing group. Following further discussion, Cllr Luter withdrew the motion.

**44/18 To agree that this Council Requests a Boundary Review process to be presented for determination in 2023-** Cllr deLauney said this issue had been forwarded because of the Haygate Fields Development but there were other boundary areas such as Apley that needed to be tidied up. It was proposed by Cllr deLauney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Gorse and agreed by members that Wellington Town Council requests a review of its Boundary.

**45/18 The date of the next Full Council Meeting** – was agreed as 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018, commencing at 7:05pm.

Chairman.....Date.....

