

Wellington Town Council

Town Mayor
Cllr Cindy Mason-Morris



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ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held at the Wellington Civic & Leisure Centre on **16th April 2019**, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs. Alvey, Burns, Gorse, Morris-Jones, Fikeis and Lowe

In Attendance: 3 members of the public and the Town Clerk

01/19 INTRODUCTION:

Cllr Anthony Lowe – Deputy Mayor acted as Chairman in the absence of the Mayor. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members to receive the written Mayors Report as detailed below.

02/19 MAYORS REPORT – 2018-19

The Mayor had sent her apologies for this evening's Annual Town Assembly because she was unwell.

During the last 12 months, Wellington has embraced a number of significant events including the Centenary of the end of the First World War and the Telford 50 celebrations. The former was marked by an extensive Project carried out in the Town by Wellington Remembers to research biographies of each of the 184 people, who died during the WWI, and who are named on the Lychgate Memorial. The Project, and all the hard work of the many volunteers involved, culminated in providing a legacy for future generations and achieved national media coverage. This resulted in many people from across the UK visiting our Town and discovering long lost family connections. The Project was an amazing achievement and will forever remain a part of our Town's history.

The theme for my Mayoral year has been "to promote our local businesses and to support the many voluntary and community groups across Wellington". During 140 plus Mayoral engagements, I have met hundreds of people who volunteer and help valuable causes and projects in the Town. They contribute their time, labour, experience and knowledge to enrich the lives of the residents, and visitors, of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. The volunteers are truly remarkable individuals and should be celebrated at every opportunity.

Wellington has a remarkable social calendar and the last 12 months has seen the repeat of some of our favourites including Charter Day, the Midsummers Fayre, Our Heroes Charity Day and Lions Day on Wheels. This is just a few of the many events that have taken place and which draw people from across the County to see the best that our Town has to offer. A lot of the events are supported by the brilliant Wellington (Telford) Brass Band who are a credit to our Town. The Wellington Festival also remains a huge draw for visitors and residents alike and continues to go from strength

to strength. There was a real buzz in Town after October's Festival especially, after the appearance of the Headline Act - the Brighthouse & Rastrick Brass Band - at the Charlton School.

Looking ahead, we remain excited about the opening of the Orbit which is pivotal for the regeneration of Wellington. The Orbit will create a hub around performing arts and will provide exciting facilities for the community to use. There are lot of artistic people in Wellington - musicians, artists, dancers, sculptors - and the Orbit will provide somewhere for them to focus their many talents.

As my Mayoral year comes to a close, I am grateful for the new friends that I have made and I would like to thank all the people that I have met who work tirelessly in the Town for the numerous Charities and community groups. Finally, I would like to thank all the Officers and Staff at Wellington Town Council for their professionalism, commitment and hard work during the last 12 months.

There were no questions so the Mayor's report was noted and agreed. Members were aware that Cllr Mason –Morris was not standing for election and wished the record to show their thanks to the Mayor for all the work she had done over the period of her role initially as Acting Mayor then being appointed officially as Mayor for this year. She has been a great ambassador for Wellington with tremendous energy and enthusiasm even though she was not fully fit herself she had done her absolute best. Cllr Alvey said she was stepping down from the Festival and he was unsure who would be able to take over the role following her leadership which had seen it grow and become more successful.

03/19. APOLOGIES: Were received from Cllrs, Mason-Morris, deLauney, Carter, Brittain, Cook, Roberts, Jinks, Hall, Hosken, Tomlinson and McClements.

04/19. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY, HELD ON 17th APRIL 2018:

These were proposed by Cllr Alvey Seconded: Cllr Burns and it was RESOLVED: that these be signed and approved as a true and accurate record.

05/19. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES: -

Councillor Morris-Jones expressed his extreme disappointment with the attendance at tonight's meeting and asked the Clerk how the meeting was advertised. The Clerk said that the meeting had been advertised in the Wrekin News and also on the noticeboards for the past 2 / 3 weeks, it had also been advertised on social media. There was general discussion as to why people were generally not attending and was commented that there was no controversy therefore no reason for the public to attend.

06/19. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS OF TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES, CHAIRS OF TOWN COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS, THE TOWN CLERK AND TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

REPORT OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES (P&R) COMMITTEE - *Chairman Cllr Stephen deLauney*

The meeting was referred to the pre-prepared Annual Report which had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Members commented on Idverde and agreed that further information is required, they had made great promises but the Town Council needs to understand what this means for Wellington. Members of the Public commented on the rough sleepers and the litter remaining in the streets particularly in Haybridge Road. Members agreed that problems need to be referred to the Clerk. The Grounds Maintenance Team was discussed and the Clerk was asked to contact members specifying their skills

and equipment so that suitable tasks can be identified in their wards. There were no further questions or comments, so the report was noted and agreed.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018-2019

Members were referred to the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance sheet as at 31st March 2018.

The total expenditure for 2017-2018 was £403,352 compared with a total of £354,864 for the year 2016/2017.

Expenditure for the year 2018/19 has generally been within the budget. Formal Income and Expenditure Accounts 2018-19 will be produced for audit in due course.

For 2019/2020 the Council has set an expenditure budget of £450,850 and a precept of £399,060

Thanks were extended to the Deputy Town Clerk for keeping the accounts in good order.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – *Chairman Cllr John Alvey*

Cllr Alvey in presenting his report referred the meeting to the contents of the previously published Annual Report and highlighted the work of the Committee which assessed planning applications and submitted comments to Telford & Wrekin Council, the Local Planning Authority.

He wished to highlight the following issues the Committee had considered throughout the year:

- Protecting the Cottage Hospital building
- Demolition of the Haygate Pub without permission
- Haygate Fields development – housing density was reduced
- Horton Lane – plans passed 4-5 years ago but still concerns about the infrastructure being able to cope

Cllr Morris-Jones expressed his concern whether T&W were taking enough notice of the Town Council views as developments were happening all over the area and those making these decisions seem unaware that the roads were not designed to take the extra traffic that will be created.

Cllr Alvey wished to extend his thanks to the Council staff and the Committee members for their participation in the work of the Committee, which enabled them to work in an effective manner.

There were no questions or comments, received, so the report was noted and agreed.

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL'S PROMOTIONS AND LIAISON COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017- 18 – *Chairman Cllr Lee Carter*

Due to the absence of Cllr Carter from the meeting the meeting was referred to the pre-prepared Annual Report which had been distributed prior to the meeting and outlined the events staged within the town during 2017-18. The Clerk pointed out to members that 47 events had been organised over a 12 month period by 1.5

members of staff. Members wished their sincere thanks were expressed to Caroline and Kirsty for all of their efforts. There were no further questions or comments, received, so the report was noted and agreed.

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE T&W BUSER USERS GROUP – Cllr Dorothy Roberts

The meeting was referred to the contents Cllr Roberts' written report contained within the previously published Annual Report which highlighted the work of the Bus Users Group.

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE WELLINGTON WALKERS ARE WELCOME GROUP – Cllr Dorothy Roberts

Members were referred to the report written by Cllr Roberts and contained within the previously published Annual Report which highlighted the work of the local Wellington Walkers are Welcome Group. In particular she highlighted the on-going path maintenance work undertaken by the Group, the monthly guided walks that took place within the Town and the Annual Walking Festival that was scheduled to take place during September.

REGENERATION BOARD

The Chairman asked Cllr Morris-Jones for an update on the work of the Board, he made the following points

- The Board helped to deliver £150K grant funding to the Orbit project
- T&W had awarded grants to new businesses
- The Board had recognised the need to encourage people into the Town
- Town Centre becoming more residential as per the 2020 report
- Developments in Walker Street and the Bus station have taken place
- Sally Themans is currently working to 'talk up the Town'.

07/19. OPEN QUESTIONS:

The following questions were asked from the floor.

- The Market – member of the public felt the time was right to approach T&W to buy the business
- New Street Shoe Zone and Charlton Arms – pavements moved and tarmac installed
- Drainage problem on the bridge in Church street
- White Lion and Subway both listed buildings in need of proper repair
- New Shop Fronts question relating to the durability of materials used
- Wellington Railway Station Accessibility questioned in relation to the Act of 2010
- The Haybridge Road needs to re-evaluated as there has been no consultation with residents

The Clerk said she would deal with these issues

Members gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Clerk

The Meeting finished at 8.25pm.

Signed:Date.....