

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD ON TUESDAY 14 JULY 2020**

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Carr and Councillors Abram, Allebone, Anslow, Aslam, Bell, Bone, Emerson, Francis, Graves, Griffiths, Hallam, Harrington, Henley, G Lawman, L Lawman, Maguire, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scanlon, Scarborough, Simmons, Skittrall, Stevenson, Walia, Ward, M Waters, V Waters, Watts, Weatherill and York.

Officers present: Mr S Darcy, (Director/S151 Officer), Mrs A Wilcox, (Principal Environmental Health Manager), Mr B Gill, (Monitoring Officer), Mrs C A Mundy, (Democratic Services Officer), Mrs F Hubbard (meeting producer). Also present were Mrs L Elliott (Managing Director), Miss K Denton, Mrs V Jessop, Mr A Piper and Mr E Symons (Assistant Directors) observing the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES

RESOLVE that apologies had been received from Councillors Beirne, Ekins and Gough.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council's code of conduct and the council's constitution, no declarations were made.

3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 16 JUNE 2020

The minutes of the council meeting held on 16 June 2020 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting of 16 June 2020, be confirmed and signed.

4. QUESTIONS/PETITIONS/REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

The mayor noted that no requests had been received.

5. MINUTES TO NOTE

The following minutes were received to note:

Planning Committee	10 June 2020
Licensing Sub-Committee (1)	15 June 2020
Licensing Sub-Committee (2)	15 June 2020
Standards Assessment Sub-Committee	22 June 2020

RESOLVED that the above minutes be noted.

6. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 17 FEBRUARY 2020

The minutes of the development committee of 22 June 2020 were received.

It was proposed by Councillor Allebone and seconded by Councillor Skittrall that the minutes be adopted, subject to a small amendment on page 1 to read 2031 and not 2013. On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the development committee of 22 June 2020, be adopted.

7. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24 JUNE 2020

The minutes of the resources committee of 24 June 2020 were received.

Reference was made to minute 4 compulsory purchase order – 47 Albert Road, Wellingborough and the recommendation contained therein, which on being put to the vote was declared carried.

The treasury management outturn was referred to and the recommendation therein put to the vote. This was declared carried.

It was proposed by Councillor Griffiths and seconded by Councillor Partridge-Underwood that the minutes of the resources committee be adopted. On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the compulsory purchase order be concluded;
- (ii) all final decisions regarding the purchase and resale of 47 Albert Road, be delegated to the assistant director (corporate landlord), in conjunction with the section 151 officer;
- (iii) the treasury management outturn position be approved;
- (iv) the minutes of the resources committee of 24 June 2020 be adopted.

8. PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 29 JUNE 2020

The minutes of the partnerships and performance committee of 29 June 2020 were received.

Councillor Graves lost connectivity during this item. It was proposed by Councillor Skittrall and seconded by Councillor Maguire that the minutes of the partnerships and performance committee held on 29 June 2020 be adopted. On being put to the vote this was declared carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the partnerships and performance committee of 29 June 2020, be adopted.

(Councillor Graves re-joined the meeting).

9. SERVICES COMMITTEE – 30 JUNE 2020

The minutes of the services committee of 30 June 2020 were received.

Councillor G Lawman referred members to the consultation on the review, amendment and extension of the public spaces protection order currently in place. He reminded members that if they wished to add any comments, prior to the consultation commencing, they needed to forward these to officers by the end of the week.

A number of councillors raised concern over the proposals suggested, particularly raising concern over the area being described as Castle ward; this was incorrect, as the ward had not existed for many years; the area referenced was shared between Victoria ward and Isebrook ward. The proposals coming forward were from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) and there had been no consultation with ward councillors, who had considerable knowledge of the area, on this proposal and this was considered to be considerably discourteous.

Particular concern was raised over where people living in the town centre vicinity would be able to walk their dogs in the future. There were also many cultural issues to consider and it was felt that a full Equality impact assessment would need to be carried out.

Other concerns related to the gating of alleyways across the wards, particularly Victoria ward. When the estates were built these alleyways gave access to people's homes, they were used as a means of walking or cycling from one end of the ward to the other and to other parts of town. Whilst it was appreciated that there were issues with fly-tipping etc. this would continue even if the alleyways were gated and could become more of a nuisance, it was considered that a better way of dealing with this would be through an education programme. The OPFCC had also raised concern over the number of burglaries in the area, and considered that the gating of the alleyways may be beneficial in some cases; however it was felt that an increased police presence would deter burglaries.

Other members agreed that the cost of constantly removing fly-tipping was vast and that the gating would also be beneficial with regard to burglaries.

The chairman responded to the concerns raised and encouraged members to respond to the consultation and express their concerns.

It was proposed by Councillor G Lawman and seconded by Councillor Ward that the minutes of the services committee of 30 June 2020 be adopted. On being put to the vote this was declared carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the services committee of 30 June 2020, be adopted.

(Councillor Anslow voted against the above.)

10. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND/OR MOTIONS (PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED)

The mayor noted that he had not received any requests.

11. REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR – BUSINESS AND PLANNING BILL – NEW PAVEMENT LICENSES

The annexed circulated report of the managing director was received to authorise that officers be permitted to administer the enforcement of new pavement licence provisions, and to set an application fee for such licence.

The Business and Planning Bill of 25 June 2020 made two significant licensing changes to support business in the relaxation of the Covid-19 lockdown measures as follows:

- the creation of a new (temporary) pavement licence to be issued by district and borough councils authorising the use of the public highway by pubs, cafes, bars and restaurants;
- any premise holding a licence authorising “on-sales” of alcohol is deemed to also authorise “off-sales”.

Councillor Griffiths, on presenting the report, proposed an amendment to the recommendation that there be no charge levied for the pavement licence. He considered that it was important for businesses in the town centre to open and that the council should actively support the business community to do so. The new licence would give more flexibility to businesses.

He also informed the meeting that over the next three months there would be no charge levied for market stall holders. It was hoped that this would encourage more stall holders to attend Wellingborough Market so that there were more goods on offer.

This proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Maguire.

Members discussed the options before them and agreed that, in the current climate, it would be beneficial not to charge businesses for the pavement licence. It was hoped that this would encourage people to visit Wellingborough town centre and that it would boost the hospitality industry. With regard to the market members felt this was a good opportunity for current stall holders and may encourage others to also attend Wellingborough's Market. It was felt that the opportunity to take a free stall in Wellingborough should be promoted and that this may encourage more stalls similar to those at a Farmers Market. It was imperative that the goods on offer were what the public wanted to buy, if support was not given to the local market it would not be sustainable and the public were encouraged to ‘use it or lose it’.

The report detailed that the licences would be granted by officers with appeals being considered by the principal environmental health manager or assistant

director. Decisions would then be able to be made within the seven day guidelines.

It was expected that the bill would come into force at the end of July.

The proposed amendment was put to the vote and declared carried.

This became the substantive motion which on being put to the vote was declared carried.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) delegated authority be given to the director/section 151 officer to authorise relevant officers in the places team to administer and enforce the new pavement licence provisions;
- (ii) no charge be levied for an application for a pavement licence.

12. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

The mayor reminded members that they needed to complete their Register of Interest forms for the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority as soon as possible.

There being no further business, the mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Mayor

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm.

