

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 7TH DECEMBER 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Mayor),
Councillors M Barr, C Booth, D Bradley, A Govier, J Hunt, M Lithgow, M McGuffie, N Powell-Brace, S Pringle-Kosikowsky, V Stock-Williams, J Thorne

David Farrow (Town Clerk), Annette Kirk (Deputy Clerk), Alice Kendall (Assistant Clerk)

1 member of the public and 3 members of the press

Sergeant Daniel Bishop and Richard Kelley, St John's Church

134 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed the new Town Clerk to his first Council meeting in post.

135 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor W Battishill.

136 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Govier, Lithgow, Lloyd, and Stock-Williams declared personal interests as members of Somerset West and Taunton Council.

Councillors Thorne, Govier and Hunt declared personal interests as members of Somerset County Council.

Councillor Lloyd declared a personal interest relating to payments to MTMIT (item 13b), being a former customer of MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant.

Councillor Thorne declared a personal interest relating to payments to MTMIT (item 13b), being a customer and personal friend of MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant.

137 MINUTES

RESOLVED approve and formally adopt the minutes of the Planning and Full Council meetings held on 2nd November after making an addition to minute 104 (b) of the Planning minutes; 'to allow an assessment of the impact of the business on the residential area'

138 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor read a report which is attached to the minutes. She wished all a very merry Christmas and a better new year in 2021.

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139 POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Dan Bishop presented his Police report for the previous month which had been circulated in advance of the meeting and is attached to the minutes. Councillor Thorne raised a concern in the amount of violence against the person related crimes (21). Sgt Bishop explained that offences in this category range from very minor altercations to serious assaults. He is not aware of any serious assaults being recorded.

Councillors asked questions about the increasing amounts of graffiti in the town. Sgt Bishop reported that this was identified by Officers on patrol and they have raised an investigation. Social media posts were made to raise awareness and appeal for information. He will be working with other agencies to try and identify the recurring tag.

The Mayor wished Sgt Bishop and his team a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and an enjoyable festive season when they are not on duty.

140 CLERK'S REPORT

The report prepared by the Acting Clerk had been previously circulated to Councillors and it was so noted. In relation to a new telephone system for the office it was noted that since the report had been circulated the Clerks had received information from the Council's IT Consultant on three different systems and that a report with a final recommendation will be provided to the next meeting of the Staffing and Resources Committee.

141 GRANT APPLICATIONS

There had been no applications since the last Council meeting.

142 TO RECEIVE A REPRESENTATION FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Richard Kelley from St John's Church addressed the meeting. He hoped that everyone had now seen the installation of the Angels of Hope in the church yard. They have been overwhelmed by the response, with hundreds of visitors coming to take photographs etc. including a nativity angel to have their picture taken with the other angels. The church yard has 30 of 120 large angels which will be installed across town in the other churches, the Park and churches in surrounding villages. There will also be displays in local shops and a trail leaflet is being produced. The project aims to tackle loneliness and isolation in these difficult times. 700 knitted angels have been delivered to those in care with a gift bag and card to remind them that they are thought and cared about. Nominations for everyday angels can be made to everydayangels2020@gmail.com. At present, the PCC are underwriting the costs of the project and they are currently fundraising to offset this cost. A grant application will be submitted to the Council shortly. Councillors thanked Richard for attending and for the fantastic work on this project. Councillors hoped that this project could be rolled out in future years and were happy to hear that it is part of a larger plan to do more to tackle loneliness.

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143 IN LIEU OF PUBLIC SPEAKING TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Clerk advised that no representations had been received.

144 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) eat:Wellington

The correspondence was circulated with the agenda and was so noted.

145 TO REVIEW ELECTRONIC DECISIONS MADE BY COUNCILLORS

At a Coronavirus emergency meeting on 19th March, Councillors made several proposals that were subsequently approved by full Council. This included electronic voting for decisions about the Council's affairs. A summary report of electronic decisions made since the Council meeting of 2nd November was attached to the agenda, with the full voting records available on the Council website.

RESOLVED to note and accept the voting report.

146 COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

(a) To note and approve the October bank reconciliation

RESOLVED to accept the Bank reconciliation.

(b) Proposed budget for 2021-22

Following an informal budget meeting, the second draft of the proposed budget was circulated with an accompanying report.

(c) To consider the precept amount for 2021-22

RESOLVED to accept the second draft budget and set the precept at £353,543. This figure will give a 0% increase in the Council rates when taking into account the increase in tax base. The Band D equivalent will remain the same as 20-21 at £66.91.

147 TO CONSIDER SECTION 106 MONIES AVAILABLE FOR BIDS

A schedule of the current Section 106 monies available in Wellington was circulated with the agenda and was so noted. The distribution of £5,000 between play and outdoor recreation from the Sportsman application will be considered at the next meeting. The Mayor reported that following a recent Scrutiny meeting at SWT, Councillors were distressed to hear that £60,000 was lost in Wiveliscombe as it was not spent in time. There were also reports of other money being missed in other areas for the same reason. SWT have recently purchased a new software system to manage the Section 106 contributions. It will also mean that information will be provided online for anyone to view. An updated table will be presented the Town Council on a more regular basis to provide another layer of review.

148 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CIL MONEY PAID TO THE COUNCIL

It was reported that the Town Council have received the following CIL payments from Somerset West & Taunton Council. The money must be spent within 5 years of

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receipt. If it is not spent, the money has to be returned to the District Council who will keep the money to be spent appropriately within the Town. Councillors were urged to start considering projects to use this funding (especially that received in 2018). This will be added to the next agenda.

April 2018	£ 1,608.75
October 2018	£ 4,296.06
April 2019	£ 4,023.19
October 2019	£10,381.90
April 2020	£ 2,335.51
October 2020	£16,253.08
TOTAL	£38,898.49

149 TO MAKE A CONSULTEE COMMENT ON A STREET TRADING LICENCE APPLICATION

Councillor Lithgow gave an update on the situation with the Farmer's Market trading licence. **RESOLVED** to re-iterate comments made previously that the market should be split between the current location (outside Co-Op) and the promotional space due to social distancing etc. Councillors considered the location outside the old Tui building as detailed in the application to not be at all suitable.

150 TO REVIEW COUNCIL OPERATIONS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CORONAVIRUS-RELATED WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

It was noted that the following meeting dates had been agreed by their Committees/groups;

- Environment & Open Spaces – 19th January 2021 – 6pm
- Town Centre Committee – 20th January 2021 – 10.30am
- Staffing & Resources – 27th January 2021 – 2.00pm
- Wellington Network Partnership – 10th February 2021 - 6.30pm

151 FEEDBACK FROM THE WELLINGTON NETWORK PARTNERSHIP

A meeting was held on Wednesday 25th November; the minutes of the meeting were circulated and noted. Councillor Lithgow gave an update to explain what the group had worked on so far including gathering information on what services the neighbouring Parishes currently provide. The Unitary business cases have to be submitted in the next few days. Until it is known which case is chosen, the group will not know how the local clustering will work. One case suggests grouping by NHS boundaries which will make much larger groups than was hoped for.

152 FEEDBACK FROM THE TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The Committee met on Wednesday 25th November; the minutes of the meeting were circulated and noted. Councillor Lloyd gave an update. Wellington are still well ahead in the administration of their Emergency High Street Fund.

At this junction, Councillor Thorne declared a personal interest in this recommendation as his daughter is a user of the Pop Up Shop.

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RECOMMENDATION: To take up a new 2 year lease on the Pop Up Shop subject to approval with Perry's.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation.

At this juncture, Councillor Hunt gave his apologies and left the meeting.

153 FEEDBACK FROM THE STAFFING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Committee met on Wednesday 25th November; the minutes of the meeting were circulated and noted. Councillor Lloyd gave a brief update.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that a subscription be taken up for an Accounting package. The Committee support the recommendation of the Clerks. Following demonstrations of three packages/services, the Clerks recommend the Scribe Accounting option at a cost of £1,500 per year plus a one off set up cost.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation.

154 TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE DEVON & SOMERSET METRO GROUP

The Town Clerk circulated a paper in advance of the meeting. The Strategic Outline Business Case is due to be finished by 16th December and submitted to the Department of Transport in January at the latest. If approved, the next stage will be an application to the New Station Fund. Councillor Barr will continue to represent the Council at the Metro Group meetings and the Town Clerk has requested to be involved in Officer level discussions and will provide updates to the Town Council when available.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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Councillor Janet Lloyd Mayor