

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 12th April 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 12TH APRIL 2021 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, N Smith, J Thorne, V Stock-Williams

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

3 members of the press were in attendance.

1 member of the public was in attendance

Also in attendance for a specific agenda item was Sergeant Daniel Bishop

Before starting the meeting, the Mayor asked that those present stand for a two minute silence to mark the death of HRH Duke of Edinburgh.

248 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting.

249 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

250 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Barr, Booth, Govier, Henley, 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 Booth declared a personal interest in item 8a as a member of the SWT Community Chest panel

The Town Clerk declared a personal interest in the Playing Pitch Strategy item as he is involved with the Rugby Club.

251 MINUTES

RESOLVED approve and formally adopt the minutes of the Planning and Full Council meetings held on 1 March 2021.

252 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor read a report which is attached to the minutes.

253 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Daniel 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 Barr asked what the Police's position was on internet hate crime. Sgt Bishop said that it was very complex situation and that in most cases examples need to be pushed back to the platforms for them to deal with under their codes of conduct.

Councillor Thorne said that there appeared to be repeat occurrences of issues around the skatepark and asked why the police were not on top of the situation there. Sgt Bishop said his team was limited in what they could do. They are working with SWT to get the Youth Shelter moved away as that appeared to be a gathering point. They would continue to monitor the situation and take action when possible.

Councillor Stock-Williams ask specific questions regarding damage to a bench at the Basins. Sgt Bishop asked her to forward the exact details to him so he could find out more information.

The Mayor thanked Sergeant Bishop for his attendance, and he left the meeting.

254 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WELLINGTON –TAUNTON CYCLE ROUTE PROJECT

The Mayor gave an update following a meeting to discuss the feasibility study of the proposed Wellington to Taunton cycle route. A further option is being looked at, namely that the route goes on the south side of the A38 to make use of the land owned by Sheppy's Cider (the owner of which was at the meeting and had made the suggestion). At this stage, the County Council are not supportive of the project and Councillors expressed their disappointment at this. Councillor Thorne suggested that the project needed to settle on one option for the route in order to progress it. The project group will continue to evaluate the options and move the project forward. Updates will be provided to the Council as and when appropriate.

255 CLERK'S REPORT

The report prepared by the Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda and as so noted.

**256 GRANT APPLICATIONS
(a) Wellington Mills CIC**

Wellington Mills CIC submitted an application requesting £2,500 for administration related costs in setting up an office, exhibition space and meeting room. The application was forwarded to Councillors by e-mail in advance of the meeting.

It was recommended by the Finance Committee that the £2,500 grant be awarded.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation.

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(b) Transition Town Wellington

Transition Town Wellington submitted an application requesting £1,446.17 to support their projects including Booklets, Bird Boxes, Plug Plants and ground cover layer for community orchard. The application was forwarded to Councillors by e-mail in advance of the meeting.

It was recommended by the Finance Committee that the £1,446.17 grant be awarded.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation.

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

The Clerk advised that no representations had been received.

258 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO A COMMUNICATION FROM WELLINGTON WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL TO SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL SEEKING TO RATIONALISE THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE A38 WELLINGTON RELIEF ROAD TO 40MPH

A general discussion was held and it was agreed to send Wellington Without Parish Council a letter of support for having an appropriate expert review carried out.

(b) TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM SOMEWHERE HOUSE SOMERSET FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT

It was agreed to send a general letter of support to Somewhere House Somerset. Councillors requested that the letter mention the Council's support to Wellington Community Counselling CIC.

259 TO REVIEW ELECTRONIC DECISIONS MADE BY COUNCILLORS

At a Coronavirus emergency meeting on 19th March 2020, 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 1 March was attached to the agenda, with the full voting records available on the Council website.

RESOLVED to note and accept the voting report.

260 COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

To note and approve the bank reconciliation up to 31 March 2021

RESOLVED to accept the Bank reconciliation.

261 TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL BANK SIGNATORY

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RESOLVED to add the Deputy RFO/Assistant Clerk as a signatory to the Council's bank accounts.

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

It was reported and so noted that the upcoming Environment and Open Spaces Committee meeting was cancelled due to the National Period of Mourning following the death of Prince Philip. The remaining meeting dates were noted.

- Environment & Open Spaces Committee – 14th April 2021 – 6pm
- Allotments Committee – 24th May 2021 – 6pm
- Town Centre Working Group – 5 May 2021 - 10.30am
- Staffing and Resources Committee – 5 May 2021 - 2.30pm

263 CADES FARM COMMUNITY HALL PROJECT – TO APPROVE FUNDS TO ENABLE THE PROJECT TO COMMENCE

The Town Clerk gave a brief update following a meeting of the projects group. Fundraising now needs to take place, but there is work needed to be done to allow this to take place. The Community Council of Somerset have provided a quote for the first stages of work needed in the amount of £6,919. This work will provide support to the group in carrying out a community consultation exercise, which is essential to determine the design of the hall and support future funding applications, and also to support the group in developing a Business Plan and provide support for fundraising.

RESOLVED to allocate an earmarked reserve amount of £7,000.

264 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Clerk circulated a paper with the agenda and gave a brief update. He informed Councillors that an electronic copy of the full Strategy document was available by request. It was noted that the current document may now not be relevant given a Section 106 agreement for the Longforth Farm development which may be able to facilitate a new playing pitch, building and car park. Councillor Thorne expressed the view that consideration need to be given to rethinking the strategy and exploring again the options that were not adopted first time around, or maybe look for any new options that have since arisen.

265 FEEDBACK FROM THE TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24 March were circulated and noted.

266 FEEDBACK FROM THE STAFFING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24 March were circulated and noted.

RESOLVED to accept the following recommendations;

- **RECOMMEND** to full Council that name of the Committee should be changed to The Policy and Resources Committee and the Terms of Reference amended for approval at the Council's Annual Meeting.

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- **RECOMMEND** to full Council that the revised Staff Appraisal process be agreed and that within that the Town Clerk's appraisal be signed off by the Mayor as Line Manager and Deputy Mayor.

267 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL POINTS

- (a) To consider entering in to a two-year contract with WGS for the installation, maintenance and removal of the Christmas Lighting (a two-year agreement will bring this in line with the remaining hire contract with Festive Lighting) (agreement attached)

RESOLVED to enter into a 2 year agreement with WGS for the Christmas lighting installation.

- (b) To consider adoption of the five remaining electrical points in the Town from SWT. SWT would like an in principle decision before preparing documents at their end. An independent inspection has been ordered to enable a report to be prepared for submission to Council before making a final decision.

RESOLVED to agree in principle to take ownership of the remaining electrical points.

268 PREPARATION FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The Town Clerk circulated a paper for consideration and the Council was asked;

1. To approve the recommendation that the Annual Council Meeting, the May Council meeting and Finance and Planning Committee meetings take place on the 4 May.
2. To note the arrangements for preparation for the Annual Meeting.
3. To approve the proposal that future meetings of the Town Council, Finance and Planning Committees take place at Court Fields School whilst social distancing requirements remain in place
4. To approve the date for the Annual Parish Meeting as the 17 May 2021 at 6.00pm

RESOLVED to approve items 1-3 and amend item 4 with the Annual Parish Meeting being held on 4 May along with the Finance, Planning, Annual Town Council and Town Council meetings.

269 PROTOCOL FOR MARKING THE DEATH OF A SENIOR NATIONAL FIGURE

The draft protocol was circulated with the agenda. **RESOLVED** to adopt the document as an in principle protocol with the understanding that adaptations may have to be made given the circumstances at the time (coronavirus restricts etc.)

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

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Councillor Janet Lloyd Mayor