

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 5 JULY 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT COURT FIELDS SCHOOL HALL WELLINGTON TA12 8SW ON MONDAY 5 JULY 2021 AT 7.00 PM

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

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

Two members of the press were in attendance and six members of the public.

Also in attendance for agenda item 9 was Mrs Polly Matthews, Head teacher of Court Fields School and for agenda item 11 Dr Jo O'Hara, Programme Manager - Heritage at Risk, Somerset West and Taunton Council and Adam Lockyear, Senior Farm Conservation Adviser for the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

117 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and the Town Clerk welcomed guests to the meeting.

118 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Battishill, Bradley and Smith. The Mayor advised that because of concerns about councillor attendance at meetings he had asked the Clerk to draw up some guidance/protocol around how that could be addressed in the future.

119 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.

120 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and formally adopt the minutes of the Planning and Full Council meetings held on 7 June 2021.

121 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No public representation had been received.

122 REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Armed Forces Day and centenary Plaque Unveiling event on 26th June. Councillor Barr asked if in future The Mayor would be providing a written report. The Mayor replied that if that is what the Council would like him

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to do he would try to but other commitments meant that finding the time to do so was difficult.

123 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Clerk updated the Council to confirm that Rebecca Hunt had been appointed as the Administration Apprentice and that she would be starting on 19th July 2021. He also advised that the Housing Team had now moved out of their office and that Council staff would be looking to make use of it as soon as possible.

124 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Bishop and Acting Sergeant Sarah Norman were unable to attend the meeting. However, their report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted.

125 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MRS POLLY MATTHEWS, HEAD TEACHER OF COURT FIELDS SCHOOL

Mrs Matthews delivered a presentation to the Council a copy of which is attached to the minutes. She invited councillors to contact her if there was anything they wanted to discuss in relation to the school. A number of Councillors expressed their thanks to Mrs Matthews and all the staff at Court Fields for all that they were doing and also appreciated the improvements that were being made at the school.

126 TOWN COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COURT FIELDS SCHOOL DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

RESOLVED to make an annual contribution of £845 to the school to enable those pupils who may otherwise be unable to participate in the Scheme to do so. It was agreed that this should be reviewed after 3 years.

127 HERITAGE UPDATE

(a) Dr Jo O'Hara gave a brief update on heritage projects in the town noting in particular that The Monument was one of the first Heritage at Risk projects that she had started work on and later this year the work will be completed, and that the Monument had been removed from the Heritage at Risk list. She also briefed the Council on a bid being made by SWAT for funding which, if successful, would enable work to continue on Tone Works and the Tonedale Mill sites. It could also see the purchase of land from the Tonedale Mill site over to Hillyhead which would link the waterways and fields associated with the Mill into the wider heritage project. Even if the bid was not successful, the work done to complete it would contribute to looking at future ways of funding the proposals.

(b) Adam Lockyear set out a project that he was working on which would link into the bid that SWAT had submitted namely the development of a Community Farm on some of the land referenced in the bid. This would be an educational as well as commercial facility although any profits made would be put back in to developing the farm. He asked if the Council would be prepared to provide funding of £1500 to enable a feasibility study to be commissioned which would enable the development of business models and financial forecasts which would in turn would inform a wider consultation process and support raising capital for the development of the Community Farm. Councillors Thorne and Lloyd raised

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concerns that there was insufficient information with the agenda to enable a decision to be made. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** that funding of £1500 should be provided to support the development of the Community Farm project.

128 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL IN RELATION TO THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR PLAYING PITCHES IN WELLINGTON.

A paper had been circulated with the agenda setting out the background to the proposal. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council recommend to Somerset West and Taunton Council that £250,000 of the remaining Cades Farm S106 funding relating to the provision of playing pitches in Wellington is allocated for the provision of playing pitches and associated facilities on the Longforth Farm development and that this funding be used (a) to contribute to the cost of the relocation of Wellington Football Club main pitch and facilities to Longforth Farm or, if that does not take place, (b) to contribute towards the cost of delivering alternative playing pitch facilities on that site as set out in the Longforth Farm S106 Agreement.

129 BASINS FOOTPATH

Councillor Govier reported that following discussions between him, Councillor Lithgow and representatives of SWAT, SWAT had now agreed that they would put a path in and meet the majority of the cost with £600 that had been raised separately being contributed to the total cost. The Council welcomed this decision.

130 PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE DATES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The basis of the proposal was set out on the agenda. The Town Clerk explained that by doing this it would bring the operation of the Finance Committee in line with other committees. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** that no changes should be made to the current arrangements, but it should be reviewed in 6 months' time.

131 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE 23 JUNE 2021

The outcome of the meeting was noted.

132 GRANT APPLICATION – LIFE EDUCATION WESSEX

The Finance Committee recommended that Life Education Wessex's grant application in the amount of £860 for their Helping Children Make Healthy Choices project should be approved. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the grant application.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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Councillor Mark Lithgow
Mayor