



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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COUNCIL MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Wellington Town Council to be held at The Worship Centre, Wellington Baptist Church, South Street, Wellington TA21 8NR on **Monday 6 September 2021 at 7.00pm.**

Members of the public are cordially invited to join this meeting. However given the current situation with COVID rates in the town we are looking to minimise the number of face to face contacts so ask that members of the public only attend if there are pressing reasons to do so. Minutes are available online following the meeting.

Councillors, members of the public and members of the press are reminded that they must not attend the meeting if they have been advised to self-isolate through Test and Trace or by Public Health or if they or are any of their immediate household have COVID symptoms and/or have had a positive COVID test.

Those who are attending the meeting are reminded that social distancing of 2m is required before, during and after the meeting and that face coverings must be worn when entering the Worship Centre or moving around it. They can only be removed when seated.

All those attending will be required to provide their names and contact details for test and trace purposes. These will be held securely by the Town Council for a period of 30 days.

Members of the public who wish to have the opportunity to address the council will need to advise the Clerk in writing by no later than 12 noon on Friday 3 September 2021.

David Farrow
Town Clerk
07983 697740
info@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

31 August 2021

1. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

If you cannot attend, please send your apology and reason to the Town Clerk

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

Standing declarations made by Councillors are set out at the end of the agenda.

4. MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the Planning and Full Council meetings on 2 August 2021 (copies attached).

5. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Public Attendance: If the public wish to make a comment or ask the Council a question, these must be emailed to the Town Clerk by 12.00 on Friday 3 September 2021. For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three-minute time limit applies to each speaker.

N.B Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that is not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

7. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The report is attached to the agenda.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

A report from Sergeant Dan Bishop will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

9. FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AND OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS

To review the arrangements agreed at the August Council meeting in relation to Council meetings and office arrangements in the context of COVID data for the Town. It is **PROPOSED:**

- That Council meetings should continue to take place at Court Fields School, or if unavailable at another venue big enough to allow for social distancing to be maintained, until December 2021 at which point the situation will be reviewed again to determine whether meetings should return to the United Reform Church Hall. Visiting speakers will be able to attend from the October meeting and the COVID arrangements that were instigated when face to face meetings were reinstated should remain in place
- That the Council Offices should reopen to the public from the 13 September 2021 between the hours of 9am and 1pm with members of the public being asked to wear face coverings and to respect social distancing when visiting the office. Staff will wear face coverings when meeting members of the public.

10. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO SOMERSET ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (SALC) REGARDING TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

SALC has been asked by the County Council and the One Somerset Team to gather views on when the next Town and Parish Elections should be held. The Chief Executive Officer of SALC has written to us as follows;

“Our next ordinary elections are due to take place in May 2023. Normally, these would have coincided with the next district council elections, thus reducing the cost to the parish of holding an election. However, the creation of a new unitary authority means that elections to the shadow authority will now be held in May 2022 and there will be no principal authority elections in 2023. For those parishes and towns that have contested elections, this could lead to a significant increase in election costs; especially for smaller parishes with limited resources.

I would, therefore, be keen to know your views on whether the 2023 town and parish council elections should be moved forward to 2022 so that we can remain in sync with principal authority elections going forward. As time is limited, I would be grateful for your ideas asap and certainly before the end of September at the very latest.

The county council has clearly stated that the choice is ours so I look forward to receiving your thoughts.”

11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DELIVERY OF THE STREET FAIR ON THE 25 SEPTEMBER 2021

Following the decision taken at the last meeting of the Council that the Town Council should take over the management of the delivery of the Street Fair, the Deputy Clerk will provide an update. Councillors are asked to confirm that they are available to help on the day.

12. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 AUGUST 2021

The draft minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 11 August 2021 are attached to the agenda. The Council are asked to note the contents.

The Committee agreed to make the following **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

(a) Council Work Plan

that the Work Plan model as circulated with the agenda should be adopted to support delivering the Council's work programme

(b) The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2 June 2022

- (i) that The Town Council should participate in the event.
- (ii) that the most appropriate site for the Beacon would be on Hilly Head and
- (ii) that the Town Centre Committee should plan and coordinate the event.

(c) Proposal to Adopt a Climate Emergency Priority

That the Town Council should adopt a specific policy that it and the town should take rapid steps to reduce carbon emissions going forward, so that becoming carbon neutral by 2030 in line with local, national and international government commitments is achievable

The policy will require a strategy to be developed that sets out how this could be achieved both in relation to the Council's own activities and also across the town as a whole given the Council's role in place leadership.

The responsibility for the development and delivery of the strategy should sit with the Environment and Open Spaces Committee.

13. ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes are attached for information. No recommendations were made.

14. GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Finance Committee will make a recommendation on the following application;

a. Churches Together

£130 has been applied for to fund the Howard Road Fun Day. The application and supporting documents have been circulated to Councillors by e-mail. Following queries from Cllr Thorne, the applicant has changed the request to £100. The updated request and explanation letter has been forwarded to Councillors by e-mail.

15. REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER AND INSURANCE PROVISION

The Finance Committee will make a recommendation on this. Report and papers are attached to the Finance agenda.

16. TREASURY AND INVESTMENT POLICY

The Finance Committee will make a recommendation on this. Report and papers are attached to the Finance agenda.

17. TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC TO ENABLE DISCUSSION OF CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS RELATING TO POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS¹

18. TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF LAND

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset County Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier
Councillor James Hunt
Councillor John Thorne

Members of Somerset West and Taunton Council:

Councillor Janet Lloyd
Councillor Andrew Govier
Councillor Mark Lithgow
Councillor Ross Henley
Councillor Vivienne Stock-Williams
Councillor Marcus Barr
Councillor Chris Booth

¹ (The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 (2))