

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE WORSHIP CENTRE, WELLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTH STREET, WELLINGTON TA21 8NR ON MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM

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

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

One member of the press and one member of the public were in attendance.

220 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting.

221 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Bradley and Smith who had work commitments, Councillor Powell-Brace who was away and Councillor R Henley who was attending another meeting.

222 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 Govier, Hunt and Thorne declared a personal interest as members of Somerset County Council.

Councillor Govier declared a further personal interest in item 14a as a member of his local Church which is affiliated to the Applicant.

Councillors Stock-Williams and Lithgow declared personal interests in item 14a as volunteers with the Applicant.

Councillor Barr declared a personal interest in item 14a as he had previously donated his Councillor Allowance to the Applicant.

223 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and formally adopt the minutes of the Planning and Full Council meetings held on 2 August 2021. Councillor Lloyd updated the Council on the following points:

Minute 168 – she had spoken to Falcon Housing who have agreed to put information up outlining their plans for the Kings Arms building once surveys etc had been completed.

Minute 169 – the next meeting of the Cycle Path Group was taking place on the 14 September 2021 where she would feed back the comments from the previous Council meeting. She also

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

noted that work had commenced on building a new roundabout on the A38 at the entrance to the Comeytrowe development.

224 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No public representation had been received.

225 REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had met with the new Licence Holder for the Wellington Produce Market on the 14 August.

He thanked Councillor Stock-Williams, Deputy Mayor, for standing in for him at the One Team Whacky Wednesday event on the 25 August when he was unable to attend due to ill health.

On the 3 September he and the Deputy Mayor had attended an event at the Wellington Monument to celebrate its reopening after the completion of the restoration work

226 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda.

In response to a request from Councillor Barr, the Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to ID Verde who had confirmed that when the contract for street cleaning was taken on by them there were two operatives, but a review had identified that only one was required with an additional mobile support that is mobile around a wider area. The Clerk agreed that he would have discussions with ID Verde managers in relation to monitoring the welfare of the remaining operative and with SWT in relation to potentially increasing the number of operatives given that the town was growing.

Councillor Govier commented on the high quality of work and commitment of Mr D Budge who is the current operative working in the town centre and it was agreed that the Council's thanks should be passed on to him for all that he does.

227 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Bishop's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted.

228 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 was **RESOLVED**:

- 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 2pm with members of the public being asked to wear face coverings

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

and to respect social distancing when visiting the office. Staff will wear face coverings when meeting members of the public.

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

The Council had been asked by SALC for a view on whether the next round of parish/town council elections due to take place in May 2023 should be brought forward to May 2022 to bring them in line with the elections for the new unitary authority or remain in May 2023 resulting in an increase in costs to town/parish councils.

After discussion the consensus was that the date for town/parish council elections should be the same as the date for the election to the new unitary authority whenever that takes place. The Town Clerk will feed that back to SALC.

230 TO RECIEVE AN UPDATE ON THE DELIVERY OF THE STREET FAIR ON THE 25 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the arrangements for the Street Fair. Councillors thanked her for all that she was doing to deliver the Fair. The Town Clerk stressed the importance of Councillors supporting the event through securing volunteers and also through volunteering themselves both to work to deliver the event through the day but also to take time on the Town Council stall.

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders to allow the member of the public to ask a question in relation to the future of the Street Fair. The Mayor noted that the Town Council had taken over the running of this event as a one off and that it was for the Carnival Committee to determine what would happen in the future.

231 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 were noted.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations as follows;

(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
- iii. 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

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

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.

232 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd August 2021 were noted. Councillor Lloyd noted that the Committee had agreed that £50 should be contributed to the Leukaemia Research Charity at the request of Alan Cavill who provides support to the Council and also helps judge the annual competition.

233 GRANT APPLICATIONS

a. Churches Together

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to award a Grant of £100 to fund the Howard Road Fun Day.

234 REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER AND INSURANCE PROVISION

RESOLVED to adopt the revised Asset Register recognising that it is a working document.

235 TREASURY AND INVESTMENT POLICY

RESOLVED to adopt the Treasury and Investment Policy

The Deputy Responsible Financial Officer/Assistant Clerk was thanked for her work on both of these items

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

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public to allow discussion of a confidential matter.

237 TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF LAND

A separate confidential minute will be held for this item.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

.....
Councillor Mark Lithgow
Mayor

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