

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 6 DECEMBER 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT COURT FIELDS SCHOOL HALL, WELLINGTON TA21 8SW ON MONDAY 6 DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor),
Councillors W Battishill, C Booth, A Govier, R Henley, J Hunt, J Lloyd, M McGuffie, S Pringle-Kosikowsky, N Powell-Brace, 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 three members of the public

371 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting.

372 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Bradley

Councillors M Barr and N Smith were absent.

373 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

Councillor Lithgow declared a personal interest in item 14 as a former employee of and shareholder in Lloyds Bank.

Councillor Hunt declared a personal interest in item 15(a) as his father had made use of the service.

374 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and formally adopt the minutes of the Planning and Full Council meetings held on 1 November 2021 (not the 6 November as noted in the agenda heading) with the amendment that Councillor Lloyd was present at the Planning Meeting.

375 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public addressed the Council raising concerns about the lack of a flagpole in the town. The Mayor gave assurances that the Council was looking into the matter.

376 REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor had circulated details of his engagements prior to the meeting.

377 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Clerk noted that since circulating his report confirmation had been received that town and parish elections would be taking place in May 2022.

378 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Bishop's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to Sergeant Bishop on behalf of the Council congratulating him on receiving the Ray Robinson Award given by Avon and Somerset Constabulary to officers who 'have made the greatest contribution to community relations outside of Bristol'.

379 PRESENTATION RELATING TO PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO THE A38 AND M5 SPUR

The Council received a presentation from Mr S Coles of Tetrattech Planning in relation to proposed developments on the above area of land. The Council broadly welcomed the proposals noting that it would provide employment opportunities for the town and potentially improve the Chelston Roundabout.

380 TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated with the agenda and were noted. It was **RESOLVED** that the £8,000 allocated for the Film Festival in 2021/22 should be taken forward in to the 2022/23 budget and that the Town Centre Committee's Terms of Reference should be amended to enable the it to have the powers to act as the Council's delegated body to spend the allocated Budget of £8,000 to deliver the Film Festival.

390 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING 15 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated with the agenda and were noted. Councillor Lloyd drew attention to the work that the Deputy Clerk had been doing to successfully bring the numbers on the waiting lists down to its lowest point for many years and thanked her for her work on that.

391 TO SET A BUDGET FOR 2022/23

The Budget report and supporting documents had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the budget for 2022/23 and use it as the basis for calculating the Precept which will be set formally at the January meeting of the Council once the final Tax Base figure is confirmed by Somerset West and Taunton Council. Councillors commended the quality of the report and its presentation.

392 VENUE FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The report setting out options had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED** to continue to meet at Court Fields School for the next three months.

393 BANKING PROVISION IN WELLINGTON

A number of concerns relating to the recent inconsistent opening hours of the Lloyds Bank Branch in the town were raised. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to the bank raising the concerns and seeking clarification on the bank's future plans for the town's branch.

394 GRANTS

(a) Applications

The Welly Hopper

As recommended by the Finance Committee it was **RESOLVED** that £1,100 be awarded with the proviso that the money be carried forward into the next financial year or repaid if the service does not re-start as planned in early 2022.

(b) Review of policy and application form

A revised Grants Policy and application form had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised documents.

395 FINANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Proposed Revised terms of Reference reflecting the changes to the Grants Policy had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised document.

Note: Prior to the next agenda item, the Town Clerk advised that on reflection and having sent the agenda out the part of the confidential item relating to funding arrangements for the refurbishment of the Longforth Road Toilet Block should be considered in the public meeting.

396. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE LONGFORTH ROAD TOILET BLOCK.

The Clerk circulated an extract from the confidential report that had been circulated with the agenda relating to the Longforth Road toilet block.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree in principle to taking out a Public Works Loan Board loan to fund the refurbishment or rebuilding of the Longforth Road Toilets and that the Town Clerk

- continues to work with Healthmatic to finalise plans for the refurbishment of the Longforth Road toilet block and
- begins discussions with the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) in relation to the process of applying for the loan/s,

with a view to bringing a final proposal for consideration to a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee in January and then to the February meeting of the Council for a formal resolution. It was noted that with the Town Council elections taking place in May the timescale for decision making would need to change to enable the decision to be made before the pre-election period.

397 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude members of the press and public for agenda item 16 in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

