

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 7 March 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT COURT FIELDS SCHOOL HALL, WELLINGTON TA21 8SW ON MONDAY 7 MARCH 2022 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor),
Councillors M Barr, A Govier, J Lloyd, M McGuffie N Powell-Brace, V Stock-Williams, J Thorne

David Farrow (Town Clerk), Annette Kirk (Deputy Clerk), Alice Kendall (Deputy RFO & Assistant Clerk), Rebecca Hunt (Administrative Assistant).

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

506 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting.

507 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor C Booth, J Hunt and S Pringle-Kosikowsky.

Councillors W Battishill, D Bradley and R Henley were absent.

508 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

509 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and formally adopt the minutes of the Planning and Full Council meetings held on 7 February 2022.

Councillor Thorne stated that at the February meeting he had voted to approve the minutes but in hindsight did not consider that the minute relating to Planning Application 43/21/0144 was accurate as his recollection was that the resolution was not to refuse the application but to ask the District Council to investigate certain matters further. That said he accepted that the Council had voted to approve the minutes as written.

510 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Two members of the public addressed the meeting. The first presentation related to parking concerns in Tone Hill. The Mayor said that they would be looked into and responded to. The second made the point that historically the town had had a Bellman and not a Town Crier as had previously been discussed by the Town Council and also explained the role of a Portreeve in a town. The Mayor thanked them for the information.

511 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM YEAR 8 PUPILS FROM COURT FIELDS SCHOOL

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Three Year 8 students from Court Fields School made a presentation to the Council on research their class had carried out into people's views about the town centre which they had undertaken as part of their Geography coursework. Councillors congratulated them on the quality of the presentation and thanked them for the information they had presented which they found very useful. Councillors requested a copy of their survey results. .

512 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Dan Bishop was unable to attend the meeting but his report had been circulated in advance.

513 REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Town Clerk had circulated details of The Mayor's engagements prior to the meeting. In response to Councillor Thorne raising concerns about him politicising the role of Mayor Councillor Lithgow said that if he had concerns, he should raise them with the Monitoring Officer at Somerset West and Taunton Council.

514 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Clerk added that on Friday 4 March a notification had been received that the pay award for town council staff had been agreed nationally at 1.75% and that as staff's contracts of employment were tied to national terms and conditions of service this would be implemented in March.

Councillor Barr raised concerns regarding street cleaning capacity in the town. The Clerk confirmed that he had been advised that Somerset West and Taunton Council had considered that the town was overstaffed for street cleaners and had not replaced one when that post became vacant leaving one postholder and a mobile team. Councillor Govier shared Councillor Barr's concerns and the Clerk undertook to do further work on this.

515 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 10 FEBRUARY 2022

Councillor McGuffie provided an update on the work of the Committee as set out in the minutes that had been circulated with the agenda. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve The Climate Change Strategy circulated with the agenda.

516 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 17 FEBRUARY 2022

Councillor Lithgow provided an update on the work of the Committee as set out in the minutes that had been circulated with the agenda. The Council **RESOLVED** to:

(a) Approve the Specification for the Cleaning of the Longforth Road Toilet Block, amended to change the cleaning times to 'before 10.00am and the second after 3.00pm' to form the basis of the tendering process.

(b) Approve the Vision for Wellington Town Council document as the basis for the future work of the Town Council.

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(c) Approve the installation of a Dog Bin in Westford Field.

(d) Approve that the Terms of Reference for the Environment and Open Spaces Committee should be amended to include having responsibility for the oversight of the management of land for which the Town Council is responsible either directly through ownership or through some other agreement that the Town Council may enter into.

517 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 21 FEBRUARY 2022

Councillor Lloyd provided an update on the work of the Committee as set out in the minutes that had been circulated with the agenda noting that there were no vacant plots, and that 15 names are on the waiting list. She explained that the Council was still awaiting a meeting with Bloor Homes in relation to the Longforth Farm allotments.

518 TO CONSIDER FUTURE VENUES FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Given that all legal restrictions relating to COVID have been lifted the Council **RESOLVED** that meetings of the Finance and Planning Committees and Full Council should return to the United Reform Church Hall from April 2022.

519 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Council **RESOLVED** to exclude members of the press and public for agenda item 14 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.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

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Councillor Mark Lithgow
Mayor