

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 4 APRIL 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON TA21 8SW ON MONDAY 4 APRIL 2022 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, V Stock-Williams, J Thorne

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

One member of the press and two members of the public were in attendance.

560 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

561 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors R Henley and N Powell-Brace

Councillors W Battishill and D Bradley were absent

562 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Barr, Booth, Govier, Lithgow, Lloyd 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.

563 MINUTES

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

564 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One members of the public addressed the meeting to talk about an idea to show support for Ukraine by handing out packages of sunflower seeds to schools and also through a number of shops in the town and also asked whether the Town Council would convene a meeting to coordinate support for any Ukrainian refugees coming to the town.

Councillors welcomed the sunflower seeds initiative. Councillor Govier suggested that a meeting as suggested would be better timed when there was more of an understanding about how many refugees were in the town and what support they were getting from other authorities.

565 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Bishop presented his report to the Council – a copy was circulated during the meeting. Councillor Thorne asked if the increase in antisocial behaviour (ASB) was down to the same individuals repeat offending. Sergeant Bishop said there were no ASB hotspots in the town and

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there was no information to suggest that it was the same people reoffending. He said that if people considered that this was an issue they needed to report it either by phone or online.

Councillor Barr raised concerns about HGV vehicles using Ford Street. Sergeant Bishop said he wasn't aware that this was an issue. The local Speed watch group was active and had not raised it and PCSOs had recently cycled up Ford Street on a couple of occasions and had not reported any issues.

566 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Details of the Mayors engagements in March had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor added that over the weekend he had attended the Reminiscence Learning Jigsaw events on both Saturday and Sunday.

567 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda. He highlighted that there were a couple of errors -the election was to be held on the 5 May and not April and in thanking councillors he should have thanked them for three years' service not four.

The Clerk highlighted the issue with the Bus Shelter on Longforth Road and assured councillors that work was in hand to address the issues that had arisen.

568 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 9 MARCH 2022

The draft minutes had been circulated with the agenda and were noted. The Town Clerk advised that the Platinum Jubilee Coins had now been ordered.

569 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 9 MARCH 2022

The draft minutes had been circulated with the agenda and were noted. It was reported that the sites in the field at Westford for the two Wellingtonia trees donated by Wellington Bloom had been selected.

570 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 15 MARCH 2022

The draft minutes and relevant supporting papers were circulated with the agenda

At this point Councillor Govier declared a personal interest in item (b) below as a supporter of and regular attendee at Wellington Football Club. It was **RESOLVED:**

(a) to approve the Funding Agreement with Court Fields School in relation to the Council's contribution of £150,000 towards the cost of building the 3G Pitch.

(b) to pay £50,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy funding to the football club to make up the difference between what it had applied for and what it received from Somerset West and Taunton Council.

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(c) to approve the meeting arrangements for May 2022 namely:

- Annual Council Meeting – to be held on the 16 May 2022 and to incorporate the monthly Council meeting agenda and matters normally considered by the Finance Committee as that committee would not have been constituted at that time
- Planning Meeting – to be held following the Annual Council Meeting on the 16 May 2022
- Annual Parish Meeting to be held the following week and if possible, to include a series of presentations from community groups the Council has supported over the year.

571 TO CONSIDER DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF LAND BEING PURCHASED BY SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON COUNCIL (SWT)

A draft paper had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED** to

(a) agree the commitments for the use of the land with the addition of the words 'which is seeking' after 'Wellington Community Food Group' and 'look to' after 'it will' in the paragraph relating to the allotments.

(b) agree that the base budget for the management of the land should be £20,000 recognising that further funding could be sought through grant applications and the use of other funding e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy for specific purposes.

572 LATE NOTIFICATION OF ROAD CLOSURES

It was noted that concerns had been raised regarding the number of road closures due to broadband cabling being laid by different companies and also the lack of advance notice being given to the Town Council of road closures in general. It was noted that there could be little control over the timing of works although it was not clear why the work was required. The Town Clerk will contact Somerset County Council in relation to the lack of advance notification of road closures in general.

573 ALLOTMENTS

The Council **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to spend up to £5,000 for any necessary clearance and remedial work to be undertaken. The council asked Council Officers to look at obtaining a quotation to put the fallen trees through a chipper and for the chippings to be offered back to Allotment Tenants.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:00pm

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Councillor Mark Lithgow
Mayor