

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE 14 OCTOBER 2021

Present: Councillors Lithgow (Chair), Govier, Lloyd, Stock-Williams and Thorne
David Farrow – Town Clerk, Rebecca Hunt Administrative Apprentice

277 Apologies

No apologies were received.

278 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

279 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 August 2021.

280 Questions and Comments from Members of the Public

None had been received.

281 Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset

(1) The Town Clerk gave an update following his and the Mayor's attendance at a conference held on the 7 October 2021 organised by the Unitary Council Implementation Team. He had previously circulated the presentations to all councillors.

He noted that the intention was to repeat these events over the coming year and that he hoped that in future they would be used more to engage town and parish councils with constructing future structures.

(2) The draft list of assets had been circulated with the agenda. It was drawn from the Somerset County Council (SCC) and Somerset West and Taunton (SWT) Asset registers held on their respective websites. The Town Clerk advised that it wasn't necessarily complete as the SWT list hadn't contained information about play areas or CCTV cameras. It was intended to give an oversight to inform future discussions about the possible devolution of assets with the respective Councils.

(3) It was agreed that a vision statement should be developed, and the Committee asked the Town Clerk to draft a form of words for consideration.

282 CCTV Provision in Wellington

The Town Clerk reported that he had attended a virtual working group meeting on the 13 October attended by representatives from SWT, Minehead and Watchet town councils, the police, including Sgt Dan Bishop, and the team that monitored CCTV in Sedgemoor. He explained the rationale for the review and said that he had been advised that the representations made by Sgt Bishop and him on behalf of the Town Council had been considered and, in all likelihood, the suggested reductions would not be taking place. However he expected that at some point the Town Council would be approached to contribute towards the cost of CCTV provision and that it may also be among assets that could be devolved to the Town Council under the unitary arrangements.

283 Council Work Plan

The Work Plan activities relating to the Policy and Resources Committee had been circulated with the agenda. It was agreed that this should form the basis of the Committees work. Any suggested amendments should be sent to the Town Clerk.

284. Proposed Model for Organising and Holding Public Events

Councillor Thorne's paper had been circulated with the agenda. It was agreed that the Town Council had a role to play in supporting events and facilitating delivery where it was needed and that funding should be set aside for that but there was not agreement that the model proposed by Councillor Thorne was appropriate. The Town Clerk suggested some quick and easy consultation with the community about what events they would like to see take place. This was agreed.

285. Longforth Road Toilets Remodelling

The Town Clerk presented updated plans received from Healthmatic including a Changing Places facility. It was agreed that the Committee should **RECOMMEND** to the Town Council that the Longforth Road Toilet block should be redesigned to have three cubicles and a Changing Places facility recognising that this would leave little space for a retail/office space in the block

286 Proposed Lease for Additional Council Office

The proposed revised lease taking in to account the additional office space being used as a result of the Housing Team moving out had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Town Council that the revised terms be accepted.

287 Staffing Update

The Town Clerk tabled a report showing the amount of additional time that staff had been working over their contracted hours over the last 6 months. He reported that this was as a result of a general increase in Council work being undertaken and in addition to that the role it had undertaken in managing the delivery of the Street Fair. The Committee thanked the staff for the work they had done and recognised that workloads were only going to increase. It was agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Town Council that the staffing complement should be increased to maximum 7 FTE and that the Town Clerk be given flexibility for determining how that should be used recognising that any increase should be incremental based on an assessment of workload. The Town Clerk will consider how this should be reflected in the budget setting process.

288 Budget Setting 2022/23

The Town Clerk asked the committee to consider, on the basis of the work plan, what needed to be built into the budget planning process which had just been commenced. He detailed some of the projects that had been discussed over the last few months for consideration. It was agreed that the Committee would consider what they wanted to build into the budget for next year and feed it back through the budget planning process

289 To Consider a Proposal to Establish a Wellington Schools Children's Parliament Event in June 2022.

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Town Council that a wellington Schools Children's Parliament should be established and that a sum of money should be set aside to implement the winning ideas. The Town Clerk will make a separate proposal in relation to the amount as part of the budget setting process.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

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Councillor Mark Lithgow
Chairman