

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON TUESDAY 19 JULY 2022 AT 4.00 PM

Present: Councillors M McGuffie (Chairman), M Barr, C Booth, K Canham, C Govier, M Lithgow and J Lloyd
In attendance: David Farrow (Town Clerk), Annette Kirk (Deputy Clerk), Alice Kendall (Deputy RFO)
Members of the public

140 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

141 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

142 MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 14 and 24 June 2022 as a true record.

143 IN LIEU OF PUBLIC SPEAKING TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were members of the public present who wished to speak on various items on the agenda. The Chairman informed them that he would ask the Committee to suspend standing orders at the appropriate time to allow them to speak.

144 THE SOMERSET BUS MANIFESTO

John Ainsworth gave a presentation of the Bus Manifesto that was circulated with the agenda. Committee members were keen to take part in an organised 'Catch a Bus' event to promote services in the area. Councillors were also keen to explore how the manifesto feeds into the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the Town Council endorse the Somerset Bus Manifesto and support the Catch a Bus Week event at the beginning of September.

145 GREEN CORRIDOR LAND

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow a member of the public to speak.

RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that

1. The Town Council establish a Green Corridor Advisory Group consisting of Town Councillors and representatives of interested community groups to support and advise the Town Council as the leaseholder of the land on the development and delivery of the vision, management plan and consultation

2. That the Steering Group develop and run a community consultation process to be completed before the end of December 2022 and report the findings back to the Committee and through that to the Town Council.

It was further agreed that membership of the group be formed of Town Councillors and one representative from the list presented (below) and, if possible, the maximum number to be kept to 10 members.

- Somerset West and Taunton Council (from 1 April 2023 Somerset County)
- Transition Town Wellington
- Wellington Community Food
- Wellington Sport federation
- The Basin Volunteer Group
- A representative, preferably a tenant, from the Allotments
- Wellington Mills CiC
- Somerset Wildlife Trust

146 DOG BIN PROVISION

The results of a survey of dog walkers carried out undertaken by the Wellington Action Group for Dogs (WAG) was presented with the agenda along with a map of current dog bin provisions.

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to speak.

RESOLVED to re-instate standing orders.

The committee discussed several possible solutions to the issue of dog fouling including schemes implemented in other areas which can see dog owners being fined for not carrying a bag for the disposal of dog waste. Councillors voiced concerns about how this would be managed, and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would first discuss this with Sgt Bishop.

It was further agreed that litter bins also be added to the overview map to get a larger picture as dog waste can also be placed in these and that this issue should be brought back to the next meeting of the committee.

147 FOOTPATH REPORT

Steve Saunders, PPLO, presented an overall report for the public rights of way. Detail (including images) was given on the works being carried out on path WG17/12 which crosses the railway line at Westford Field. Councillors were welcoming of the steps which looked sturdy but did have concerns about accessibility. Steve reported that he had been trying to contact someone to ask about the works generally and would follow this matter up also.

148 GREEN GRANTS POLICY

A draft policy was circulated with the agenda, and it was agreed that it should be **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that is be accepted.

149 LAND AT JURSTON FARM

The Clerk circulated a paper with the agenda that included plans of the area in question. It was agreed that a small group of Councillors and community groups would meet to consider how they land could be used with a view to reporting back to the next meeting of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee.

Due to their previous involvement, Councillors Lithgow and Lloyd requested to be members of the group.

150 CARBON NEUTRAL STRATEGY

The Town Clerk reported that he had met with someone to discuss baselining the towns carbon footprint and whilst the discussion had been useful they were unable to take on the work at this stage. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should bring in additional capacity to support the development and delivery of the Carbon Neutral Strategy.

151 CHESTNUT CLOSE PLAY AREA

A background paper was circulated with the agenda.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the Town Council take possession of the site and move forward with registering ownership at the Land Registry via a Solicitor.

152 TONEDALE PLAY AREA

The Deputy RFO presented a paper with updates on the refurbishment project. The lack of signage was raised on a previous annual inspection carried out as part of the Councils insurance cover. A draft design for signage was included in the paper. Councillors asked that the location of the nearest Defibrillator be added before ordering.

153 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN UPDATE

The Town Clerk advised that work was ongoing on this project and that they had trialled a walking route assessment tool that had been developed by WSP on the route from Tonedale to the Town Centre. Once feedback had been received on that further route assessments would be carried out.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.45pm

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Councillor Michael McGuffie
Chairman