

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 4 JULY 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 4 JULY 2022 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor)

Councillors M Barr, Z Barr, W Battishill, C Booth, K Canham, A. Govier, C. Govier, R Henley, J Lloyd, M McGuffie, J Thorne, N Powell-Brace, K Wheatley

David Farrow (Town Clerk), Annette Kirk (Deputy Town Clerk), and Rebecca Hunt (Administrative Assistant)

Two members of the public were present and one member of the press.

121. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

122. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor S Booker.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Along with the standing interests listed at the end of these minutes Councillors M Lithgow and N Powell-Brace declared personal interests in item 13(g) as residents of Clifford Terrace.

124. MINUTES

It was noted that in minute 72 Councillor J Lloyd had provided the update and not Councillor M Lithgow. With this amendment it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting and Planning Meeting held on the 6 June 2022 as written.

125. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments.

126. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Dan Bishop attended the meeting and his report had been circulated in advance. Councillors thanked Sergeant Bishop for the work that his team does around the town. They were also appreciative of the summer activities that the team would be providing.

127. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Details of the Mayor's engagements since the Annual Meeting had been circulated by e-mail before the meeting.

At this point Councillor R Henley joined the meeting.

128. UNITARY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillors M Barr, A Govier and R Henley provided updates on Somerset Council issues that impacted on Wellington. Councillor A Govier mentioned the number of County buildings in the town that may become available which he was looking into, along with the developing work on the Local Community Networks. Councillor M Barr noted that the potentially challenging County Council budget position may result in the Town Council being asked to do more which could impact on the Precept and Councillor R Henley referenced the ongoing work in relation to implanting local government reorganisation in Somerset.

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129. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

130. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Having considered the papers circulated with the agenda it was **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the revised terms of reference for the Committee be adopted.
- (b) That rather than pay a Grant to the Carnival Committee the Council pay invoices on the Carnival Committee's behalf against those items detailed in the grant application. This responsibility will be delegated to Officers. A spending limit of £5,000 will be set aside with a dedicated budget line added to the monthly reports. This amount will be a one-off draw down from reserves and will not form part of the Council's ongoing budget for the purpose of setting the precept. Invoices for payment and spend against the budget will be reported to the Finance Committee in the normal way each month.

131. ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Councillor Lloyd provided an update on the work of the Committee. Having considered the papers circulated with the agenda it was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for the Committee be adopted.

132. ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the final scheme and quotation for the refurbishment of Tonedale Play Area from Redlynch Leisure, circulated with the agenda, be accepted at a cost of £84,100 to be funded from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) reserves. Thanks were made to councillors who had been involved in what was a very thorough process and to the Deputy Responsible Financial Officer who had led and overseen the project.

133. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Having considered the papers circulated with the agenda it was **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the revised terms of reference for the Committee be adopted and that the Committee oversee the drafting of a revised Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy which would detail committee responsibilities and which committee should fulfil them. This will be added to the Policy Review Timetable.
- (b) That the revised Standing Orders circulated with the agenda be adopted.
- (c) That the revised Financial Regulations circulated with the agenda be adopted.
- (d) That the Council will not take up the offer of moving to office space in the town library when its refurbishment is completed.
- (e) That further work is done to seek the views of interested parties and the community in relation to the timing of the 2023 Remembrance Sunday ceremony with arrangements for the 2022 ceremony remaining as before.
- (f) That The Town Council's starting point in discussions with the Unitary Authority Project Team should be that the basis of a Local Community Network for the area should be centred around Wellington and its surrounding parishes linked in with the Court Fields catchment area and that the Council should reinstate the informal meetings with those parishes to seek their views.
- (g) To approve the installation of new streetlights at Orchard Close, Bulford Lane and two at Clifford Terrace at a total cost of £7748 with £1500 of funding being drawn from the Street Light Budget and the balance from the Council's reserves.
- (h) To approve acceptance of the Delegated Planning Agreement from Somerset West and Taunton for the period 2022/23.

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- (i) That an informal workshop for councillors, to further develop the Vision and Work Plan, should be arranged prior to a more formal consultation with the community.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset County Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier

Councillor Marcus Barr

Councillor Ross Henley

Members of Somerset West and Taunton Council:

Councillor Janet Lloyd

Councillor Andrew Govier

Councillor Mark Lithgow

Councillor Ross Henley

Councillor Marcus Barr

Councillor Chris Booth

Councillor Keith Wheatley

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Councillor Mark Lithgow
Mayor