

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 1 AUGUST 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 1 AUGUST 2022 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor)

Councillors M Barr, S Booker, C Booth, K Canham, C. Govier, R Henley, J Lloyd, M McGuffie, J Thorne, N Powell-Brace, K Wheatley

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

One member of the press was in attendance.

175. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Z Barr, W Battishill and A. Govier

177. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None in addition to the standing interests detailed at the end of these minutes.

178. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting and Planning Meetings held on the 4 July 2022.

179. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments.

180. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Dan Bishop was unable to attend the meeting, but his report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Town Clerk will seek advice from Sergeant Bishop in relation to what action councillors should take if they see reports of antisocial behaviour on social media.

181. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

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

182. UNITARY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor M Barr referenced the significant financial difficulties that the County Council was facing and that the Town Council needed to be ready to consider filling gaps in service delivery if the County Council had to make cuts. He also understood that the intention was that when the new Taunton Town Council came into existence it would be given responsibility for the town's car parks and he hoped that that principle would be applied consistently to other town councils including Wellington.

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

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

Councillor Henley joined the meeting at this point and was asked to provide his update on the Unitary Council process. He said that consultations in relation to Local Community Networks would be taking place during the autumn.

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184. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 July had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

185. ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 July had been circulated with the agenda and Councillor McGuffie gave an update. It was **RESOLVED:**

1. To 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. The membership of the group be formed of Town Councillors and one representative from each group in 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
3. That the Green Grants Policy be accepted.
4. That the Town Council seek to take possession of the Chestnut Close Play Area site and move forward with registering ownership at the Land Registry via a Solicitor.

It was noted that a recommendation of the Committee in relation to the Bus Manifesto had not been included on the agenda in error. Councillor Thorne also raised a question about the financial implications of supporting the manifesto. It was agreed to defer this item until the September Council meeting.

186 TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 July had been circulated with the agenda. Councillor Lloyd provided an update. She advised that work in relation to reviewing the ongoing responsibility and management costs of the three Footfall Counter sensors was ongoing as each had been installed at different times.

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STANDING 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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There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.35pm

Councillor Mark Lithgow, Mayor