

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor)

Councillors M Barr, Z Barr, W Battishill, K Canham, A Govier, C. Govier, J Lloyd, M McGuffie, J Thorne, K Wheatley

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

One member of the press was in attendance.

220. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors S Booker, C Booth, R Henley and N Powell-Brace

222. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

223. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting and Planning Meetings held on the 8 August 2022.

Councillor Wheatley joined the meeting at 7.05pm.

224. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

225. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Dan Bishop presented his report to the Council which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Councillors expressed their thanks to Sergeant Bishop and his team for all the work they do around the town.

Councillor M Barr asked for clarification about the numbers of officers based in Wellington and was concerned that with the town growing police numbers had decreased. Sergeant Bishop explained that he had a team of eight officers, three police constables and four Police Community Support Officers plus himself this was supplemented by teams from Taunton which could be increased if demand required it.

In response to a question from Councillor Thorne Sergeant Bishop explained that whilst they would like to respond immediately to every call, they had to prioritise based on the information provided and the seriousness of the issue being reported.

226. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

It was noted that due to holidays and the Mayor being unwell he had had no official engagements in August.

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227. UNITARY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor M Barr reported that a new Lord Lieutenant for Somerset had been appointed. Councillor Govier said that there had been no meetings during August so there was nothing new to report. The Town Clerk said that he understood that a consultation on the structure of Local Community Networks should have been published today but at the time of the meeting he had not seen anything. He would let councillors know when it was published.

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

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Town Clerk reported that the Somerset Bus Campaign event in the town on the 9 September would now be starting at 9.30am and not 10.00am to allow those councillors attending the Cost of Living Crisis Summit at 10.00am to join it

Councillor Battishill left the meeting at 7.34pm

229. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 8 August 2022 were circulated with the agenda and were noted.

230. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8 August were circulated with the agenda and were noted. The Town Council **RESOLVED**

- (a) To adopt the new Town Council Media Communications Policy as amended by the Committee
- (b) To adopt the revised Town Council Publication Scheme
- (c) To adopt the revised Town Council Privacy Notice
- (d) That the refurbishment of the Longforth Road Toilet block should proceed without a Changing Places facility included in the specification, given that The Iron Duke had confirmed that its Changing Places Facilities were available to the general public without having to buy food/drink from the pub, and that the Clerk should revisit the options for the block and report back at the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.
- (e) That the Council engages with Community Council for Somerset Smarter Communities Team to undertake a Community Review.

231. ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2022 were circulated with the agenda and were noted.

232. ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

An item relating to the Somerset Bus Manifesto was considered by the Committee at its July meeting but was not included on the August Council meeting agenda in error. The Town Council **RESOLVED** to endorse the Somerset Bus Manifesto and support the Catch a Bus Week event at the beginning of September.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

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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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Councillor Mark Lithgow, Mayor