

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 4.00 PM**

**Present:** Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)  
Councillors M Barr, C Booth and M Lithgow  
**In attendance:** David Farrow (Town Clerk), Annette Kirk (Deputy Clerk), Alice Kendall (Deputy RFO)  
1 Member of the press  
1 Member of the public

**241 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors C Govier and J Lloyd

**242 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**243 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 19 July 2022 as a true record after adding Councillor Thorne to the list of those in attendance.

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

The member of the public did not wish to speak.

**245 GREEN CORRIDOR LAND**

Notes from a recent meeting of the Steering Group were circulated with the agenda and the Town Clerk gave an update. It was noted that the Group's Terms of Reference should have been presented for approval, but they will now be ratified at the October Full Council meeting instead.

**246 DOG BIN PROVISION**

As requested at the previous meeting, an updated map showing litter bins as well as dog bins was circulated with the agenda.

**RESOLVED** to give delegated authority to Officers to place an order for two additional dog bins. One to be located on the footpath near Relyon (between Brendon Road and Lillebonne Way) and another in the Parklands Road area (to service the path through to Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School). The exact locations to be agreed between Somerset West and Taunton and the Deputy RFO after carrying out a site visit.

It was also agreed to request that Somerset West & Taunton install a litter bin in their playing pitch at Hoyles Road.

**247 LAND AT JURSTON FARM**

The Town Clerk gave an update on his discussions with GC Fry and other groups. There are still matters to consider which will be reported to future meetings.

**248 CARBON NEUTRAL STRATEGY**

The Chairman gave a presentation on the Strategy. It was agreed that work around this could be carried out by a fixed term project manager who is experienced in this field. This is also linked to the staffing review that is currently in progress.

**249 PLAY AREAS**

A background paper was circulated with the agenda with details on play areas at Tonedale (Richards Close), Chestnut Drive, Corner Close and Weavers reach.

**RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Council approach Persimmon and Somerset West and Taunton to take ownership (including maintenance) of the play area at Corner Close.

**RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Councillor’s Solicitors be instructed to enter negotiations with Burgess Salmon to take ownership of the play area at Weavers Reach from the Crown Estate. Fees and purchase cost to be funded from the Capital Projects reserve.

Councillor Booth and the Deputy RFO will continue with planning a meeting with Somerset West & Taunton to visit each play area in the town and carry out an assessment of their condition and report back to a future meeting. It is hoped that an early discussion can be had regarding the impact on areas currently owned and maintained by the District Council once the new Unitary Authority has come into effect.

**250 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN UPDATE**

Information was circulated with the agenda and the Town Clerk explained the process used to carry out an audit on the identified walking routes. Now this has been carried out, the Town Council can implement audits of other routes. The cycling audit will be carried out next.

**251 NOTICE BOARDS**

A report detailing options for the replacement of the notice boards at Tonedale and the Basins. Councillors asked that officers try to obtain energy figures for the production of a new board. Also to approach carpenters to gather quotes for replacement of just the cabinet of the Tonedale board.

**252 BUDGET SETTING**

The Committee received tables with details of the Budget lines they often spend from. It was **RECOMMENDED** to the Finance Committee that the lines for grass cutting and weed killing be removed as they have not been utilised for a number of years. The Deputy RFO reminded Councillors that they should contact the Officers as soon as possible with any details of projects they would to see in the 23-24 budget.

**253 TREE PLANTING**

- a. Development of Wellington Tree Policy – to discuss the development of a policy to promote tree planting in the town - Chairman
- b. To consider how to take up the offer from SWT of £100 of free trees i.e., which trees and where to plant them – Town Clerk

The Deputy RFO read an e-mail received from Beech Grove School who would like to work with the Council to plant trees available for free from provided by the Woodland Trust. It was agreed that this would be a valuable project.

The Chairman gave a presentation including a number of slides with various information during which it was agreed that the awaited strategy from Somerset West & Taunton would inform the Council's way forward.

Towards the end of the presentation, Councillor Lithgow left the room which caused the meeting to no longer be quorate, so the Chairman called the meeting to a close.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.51 pm**

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**Councillor Michael McGuffie**  
**Chairman**