

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 3 OCTOBER 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor)

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

David Farrow (Town Clerk) and Annette Kirk (Deputy Clerk)

One member of the press and one member of the public were in attendance.

274. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor J Thorne.

276. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

277. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting and Planning Meetings held on the 5 September 2022.

Councillor Henley joined the meeting at 7.06pm.

278. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments

279. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Dan Bishop was unable to attend the meeting and his report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

280. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

A list of the Mayor's engagements for the previous month had been circulated prior to the meeting.

281. UNITARY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillors M Barr, A Govier and R Henley provided updates on ongoing work at the County Council including the Local Community Network Consultation process, the restarting of scrutiny committee meetings following the summer break and the role of Public Health in promoting and supporting positive lifestyles.

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

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Clerk thanked Council staff and Councillors for their support in ensuring that the town responded well in paying its respects following the Queen's death. Councillor C Govier thanked the Clerk for arranging the Cost of Living Crisis Summit which she considered had been a positive meeting.

283. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5 September 2022 were circulated with the agenda and were noted.

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284. PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COST OF LIVING CRISIS BUDGET

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. Following a proposal from Councillor C Booth the amount for the budget was amended to £35,000 to be drawn down from reserves. The Town Council **RESOLVED** to establish a Cost of Living Crisis Budget of £35,000 to be drawn from reserves and that the Finance Committee should have delegated responsibility to allocate the funding in line with its Terms of Reference.

285. ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2022 were circulated with the agenda and Councillor McGuffie gave an update at the meeting. The Town Council **RESOLVED**

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

(b) 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 costs to be funded from the Capital Projects reserve.

286. TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2022 were circulated with the agenda and Councillor Lloyd gave an update at the meeting..

287. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GREEN CORRIDOR ADVISORY GROUP

Draft Terms of Reference had been circulated with the agenda. The Town Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Draft Terms of Reference for The Green Corridor Advisory Group

289. LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) CONSULTATION

The Consultation on the future development of LCNs was published on the 6 September 2022 with a closing date of the 17 October 2022. Councillors were encouraged to complete the consultation.

290. COMMUNITY REVIEW - MEMBERSHIP OF STEERING GROUP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Council **RESOLVED**

(a) To adopt adopting the Model Terms of Reference with four councillors on the group – Councillors M Barr, C Govier , M Lithgow and J Lloyd

(b) To agree an initial budget of £500 for the work to be drawn from the Neighbourhood Plan budget line

291. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 21/22

The External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP, has returned Section 3 (External Auditor Report and Certificate 2021/22) of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return with the public notice of conclusion of audit had been circulated with the agenda. The Town Council **RESOLVED** to formally note the documents.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

<p>Members of Somerset County Council: Councillor Andrew Govier Councillor Marcus Barr Councillor Ross Henley</p>	<p>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</p>
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Councillor Mark Lithgow, Mayor