

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 7 NOVEMBER 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor)

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

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

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

331. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors C Booth, Z Barr, S Booker and J Lloyd.

333. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

334. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting and Planning Meetings held on the 3 October 2022.

335. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public raised concerns about speeding in the Bulford area of town. The Town Clerk said he would raise the issue with Sergeant Dan Bishop.

336. 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.

337. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE WELLINGTON CARNIVAL

The Council received feedback on the Wellington Carnival that had taken place on Saturday 24 September. The Carnival was considered to be a great success given it was the first carnival for a number of years and the Council was thanked for its financial support.

338. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE WELLINGTON FILM FESTIVAL

The Council received feedback on the Wellington Film Festival which had been held between the 30 September and the 2 October. The festival had been a major success with some events being sold out within minutes. The Council was thanked for its financial support.

339. 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.

340. UNITARY COUNCIL UPDATE

Unfortunately Councillor Bill Revans was unable to attend the meeting. The Town Clerk drew councillors' attention to the letter from Councillor Revans relating to budget setting for 2023/24.

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

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The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Clerk informed the Council that he had been informed earlier in the day that Rebecca Hunt had successfully completed her Apprenticeship. The Council asked that its congratulations should be passed on to her and the Mayor will write a letter.

342. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 17 October 2022 were circulated with the agenda and were noted.

343. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2022 and the background papers relating to the recommendations below were circulated with the agenda and Councillor M Lithgow gave an update. The Council **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the Town Councils Complaints Procedure be carried forward unamended
- (b) That the amended Town Council's Staff Grievance Procedure be adopted
- (c) That the Town Council go out to tender to commission a specialist contractor to investigate a range of options and oversee the redesign and construction of the toilet block at Longforth Road.
- (d) That the Town Council should cease to provide paper copies of meeting documents to those councillors who give their consent to receiving them electronically, and that it purchases tablets on the basis set out in the paper for those councillors to access meeting documentation electronically.
- (e) That the Town Council should sponsor an annual 'Contribution to the Community' prize for a pupil in each year group at Court Fields School and the senior school at Wellington School and that the prize should consist of a trophy for each year group and a £25 token for Bookshop by the Blackdowns.
- (f) That the contract with ID Verde be reduced to 10 hours per week and that this be backdated to the 1 November 2022.

344. ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2022 were circulated with the agenda and were noted

345. PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE A TOWN COUNCIL GAZEBO

A supporting paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase a branded gazebo from Instant Promotion: £1676.50 + £335.30 VAT to include Two Medium Feather Flag Poles (incl. Bases). Large Pop-Up Counter, Weights and Storage Bag. Suggestions were made for how the design could be improved and these will be raised with the provider.

346. TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Council **RESOLVED** to exclude members of the press and public for agenda item 17 in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

347. EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE 31 OCTOBER 2022

The confidential minutes of the meeting were attached to the agenda for information along with a copy of the Local Council Consultancy (LCC) Report and Town Clerk's report considered at the meeting. After some discussion and Council **RESOLVED** that the proposed new structure as

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recommended in the LCC report should be implemented from the 1 December 2022 along with the recommended salary grades.

348. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2022

The confidential minute was circulated for information and was noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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