

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 5 DECEMBER 2022

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

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor)

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

David Farrow (Town Clerk)

One member of the press was in attendance.

390. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors C Booth, K Canham, S Booker, C. Govier, and N Powell-Brace.

392. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

393. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Town Council and Planning Meetings held on the 7 November 2022.

394. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

395. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE RECENT LOCAL PLAN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE.

Sarah Povall was unable to attend the meeting. The Town Clerk will invite her to a future meeting.

396. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Dan Bishop has left his post and no report had been provided to the Council. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to Sergeant Bishop on behalf of the Town Council to thank him for his work in the town and to wish him well for the future.

397. 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.

Councillor Henley joined the meeting at this point.

398. SOMERSET COUNTY AND UNITARY COUNCIL PROGRESS UPDATE

Councillors welcomed the news that late night buses to and from Taunton were to be reintroduced and also that fares would be capped. It was noted that whilst the Somerset Council budget still had to be set it was hoped that there were sufficient funds available to set a budget for 2023/24 but that following years would be challenging. The Town Clerk reported that he had sought to open informal discussions with Somerset West Council staff about provision of services in Wellington but at this stage they would not be taking place. He hoped that they would in the future.

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

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Clerk informed the Council that the streetlights in Orchard Close and Cubbitts Place would be connected and lit in the week commencing the 9 January. Councillor A Govier asked the Clerk to check whether the new light in Bulford had been installed.

400. OFFICER'S MOBILE PHONES

The report circulated with the agenda was considered and the Council **RESOLVED** that four new model iPhone SE 2022s should be purchased at a cost of £375 each plus £15 each for the protection package.

401. ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 15 November had been circulated with the agenda. The Council **RESOLVED** that

- (a) A grant of £4,500 from the Green Corridor budget line be given to Transition Town Wellington to contribute to the purchase of a storage container with all details of design and location to be agreed at a future committee meeting before installation.
- (b) The three new notice boards be purchased and installed as set out in the report and that an additional notice board should also be provided for Rockwell Green on the same basis as those in Priory and Tonedale. Funding to be drawn from the Green Corridor and Community Services & Priorities budget lines as detailed in the report.
- (c) The Tree Planting Strategy be adopted by the Town Council.

402. TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15 November 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and Councillor Lloyd gave an update. The Town Clerk reported that he and the Assets and Events Officer had met with representatives of the Friends of Wellington Park regarding the Coronation Weekend, and they were happy that their Spring Fair should be used as a key part of the town's celebrations for that weekend alongside other events that the Town Council would organise for the day.

403. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 15 November were circulated with the agenda. The Council **RESOLVED**

- a) Service Level Agreement – Reminiscence Learning:
 - i) That the current Service Level Agreement be terminated by giving three months' notice in writing.
 - ii) That a new three-year agreement be drawn up to come into effect on 1st April 2023 with funding of £12,000 per year to include the Carers Support Group. (Updated agreement attached)
 - iii) That funding of £3,125 be paid to support the Carers Group for the five months to the end of the financial year.
- b) 2023 – 2024 Budget – that the budget be adopted with one change that the budget line for The Rifles event be reduced by £4,000 on the basis that the activity associated with that cost would not be taking place.

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

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