

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON 12 DECEMBER 2022 AT 4.30pm

Present: Councillors M Lithgow (Chair) M Barr, A Govier, J Thorne, M McGuffie and K Wheatley
David Farrow – Town Clerk.

One member of the press was in attendance

413 Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors S Booker, K Canham and J Lloyd.

The Chair raised concerns that due to the postal strike papers had not arrived with Councillors in time for them to give proper consideration in advance of the meeting. He recognised that some were time critical and that others were relatively straightforward and proposed that items 7 and 9 on the agenda be deferred to allow further consideration. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** that consideration of agenda items 7 and 9 would be deferred and that an additional meeting would be held on the 19 December 2022 to consider them.

414 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

415 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 17 October 2022.

416 Questions and Comments from Members of the Public

No members of the public were in attendance.

417 To Review the Town Council Health and Safety Policy

An amended version of the Town Council Health and Safety Policy was circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Town Council that the revised policy is adopted.

418 To Review the Town Councils Safeguarding Policy

A revised Town Council Safeguarding Policy was circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Town Council that the revised policy is adopted.

419 Proposal to Appoint a Community Warden/Ranger

Consideration of this item was deferred until the 19 December 2022.

420 Proposal to Establish a Town Council Award Scheme

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend adoption of the Scheme to the Town Council.

421 To Consider Whether the Town Council Should Seek a Review of its Boundaries.

Consideration of this item was deferred until the 19 December 2022.

422 Councillor Allowances

The paper circulated with the agenda was noted. It was **RESOLVED** that the 2023/24 allowance should be as set in the 2023/24 budget and that the Town Council should continue to press the new unitary authority, both individually and through the Somerset Association of Local Councils, to establish a Parish Remuneration Panel.

423 Town Council Winter Emergency Fund

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on the allocation of funds. Since the decision to establish the budget had been made there was now a substantial body of support and funding available for groups and individuals. SPARK Somerset had been commissioned by Somerset County Council to provide advice and support in relation to setting up Warm Spaces including where to access funding to deliver them. wanting to establish warm spaces without needing the support of the Town Council. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would contact groups in the town to establish if they would be able to extend their provision with support from the Town Council. It was also agreed that the Town Clerk will contact schools and The One Team in the new year to remind them of the available funding.

424 Somerset Emergency Community Contact

The Committee noted the letter attached to the agenda from Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit and that the contact for the Town Council would be the Town Clerk.

425 Project Initiation Form

After some discussion the Committee **RESOLVED** not to recommend the adoption of the Project Initiation form as suggested. It noted that it was reasonable for staff to use it but not to expect councillors to.

426 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee **RESOLVED** to exclude members of the press and public for agenda item 14 in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as the paper supporting the Green Corridor Lease contained information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings which is classified as 'Exempt Information' as defined in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

427 Green Corridor Lease.

The Committee considered the Town Clerks Report and the Lease. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Town Clerks assessment of the legal advice received and to recommend to the Town Council that the lease be agreed as currently written to be signed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Council.

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Councillor Mark Lithgow
Chairman