

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 9 JANUARY 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor)

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

David Farrow (Town Clerk)

One member of the press and two members of the public were in attendance.

444. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor S Booker.

446. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

447. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Town Council and Planning Meetings held on the 5 December 2022 and the extra Town Council meeting held on the 19 December 2022.

448. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Two members of the public spoke.

Sue Smith spoke to advise the Council that she was stepping down from organising the Town's Christmas Window Display Competition. Councillor Lloyd commended her for all that she had done and how hard she had worked on this and the Mayor thanked her on behalf of the Council.

The second member of the public raised questions about how the phosphate issue was being managed on the County level and was invited to email his questions to the Mayor who would pass them on.

449. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Kat Forrest was welcomed to her first meeting as the beat Sergeant for Wellington. Her report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

450. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL PLAN

Sarah Povall, Principal Planning Policy Officer with Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) gave a presentation on the work that had gone in to developing the Wellington Local Plan, the findings of the public consultation and what would be happening next. The intention was that the Plan would be approved by SWT Executive prior to the new unitary council coming in to place. Councillors thanked Sarah for her presentation and looked forward to seeing how the Plan would be taken forward.

451. TO CONSIDER THE DELEGATED PLANNING AGREEMENT FOR 2023/24

A paper had been circulated with the agenda and Councillor Bill Revans, Leader of Somerset County Council and Alison Blom-Cooper who is responsible for Strategic Place Planning with SWT joined the meeting for this item. After some discussion the Town Council **RESOLVED** to agree in

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principle that it wished to continue to exercise delegated planning powers through an agreement with Somerset Council from the 1 April 2023 recognising the need for Somerset Council to move to a cost recovery model. This would be subject (a) to the service being available and (b) confirmation of cost. A separate decision of the Town Council to confirm this will be required once costs are known.

452. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

An email detailing the Mayor's engagements the previous month had been circulated prior to the meeting

453. SOMERSET COUNTY AND UNITARY COUNCIL PROGRESS UPDATE

Councillor Bill Revans joined the meeting for this item. Councillors Henley, A Govier and M Barr provided updates outlining that the current work of the Council was focussed on establishing the structure of the new Council in advance of vesting day and finalising a challenging budget. Councillor Revans said Somerset County Council Executive would be receiving proposals in relation to the structure and roles of Local Community Networks at its meeting on the 18 January 2023

Councillor Z Barr left the meeting at this point.

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

The Clerks report had been circulated with the agenda. In relation to the Longforth Road toilet block he reported that the Council's insurers had been informed, that a loss adjuster had visited the site and that he had advised that we commission a structural engineer to provide a report on the buildings condition. The costs of this would be covered by the Council's insurance.

455. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022 and relevant supporting papers had been circulated with the agenda.

The Town Council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Precept be set at £466,332 equating to a Band D average of £84.65 and being a 10% increase on the 2022 – 2023 Band D average.

456. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings held on 12 and 19 December and the background papers relating to the recommendations on the agenda had been circulated with the agenda. The Town Council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee to

- (a) approve the revised version of the Town Council Health and Safety Policy.
- (b) approve the revised Town Council Safeguarding Policy.
- (c) approve the proposal to instigate a Town Council Awards Scheme.
- (d) approve the proposal to appoint a Community Warden be approved on the basis set out in the proposal, that a budget line of £50,000 to be drawn from reserves to fund the set-up costs for the function and that authority for authorising spend against the budget is delegated to the Town Clerk for items up to £3,000 and that items over £3,000 be approved by the Town Clerk, Mayor and two other councillors who are members of the Policy and Resources Committee.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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