

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Wellington Town Centre Committee held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Fore Street, Wellington TA21 8AG on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 6.00pm

Present: Councillors J Lloyd (Chair), M Lithgow, M Barr, C. Booth, C Govier.
S Pringle-Kosikowsky (from minute number 481c)

In Attendance: Councillor A Govier
Dave Farrow – Town Clerk
Annette Kirk – Assets & Events Officer

One member of the press

475 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor K Wheatley, R. Coupe, S Davis

476 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest

477 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Centre Committee meeting held on 15th November 2022.

478 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No Questions and Comments from the Public

479 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Two business owners have expressed interest.

RESOLVED to take the Terms of Reference amendments to the Full Council's May Annual Meeting and increase the number of non-councillor members from 4 to 6.

480 POP UP SHOP

Deputy Clerk circulated a report to the Committee prior to the meeting.

- The Committee were encouraged to see nearly all the weeks in the year had been booked up.
- Councillor J Lloyd (Chair) asked the members for more help with the handovers and to contact the Deputy Clerk. Councillor J Lloyd confirmed she would be available if needed.
- Councillor J Lloyd to re-iterate to Full Council the need for more help from all Councillors to assist with handover.

481 KING'S CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

a) **RESOLVED** to recommend Full Council to approve the quotation from Insignia Ltd in the sum of £4,832.00 + VAT for 3,200 coins including early years, home schooled and special needs children living in Wellington but attending a school elsewhere.

b) Flagpole Holders in Fore Street, High Street, South Street and North Street

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the existing 43 flagpole holders in the town centre be replaced and to accept the estimate from Flags.co.uk for 2m Aluminium white powder painted coated pole £6,654.00 plus VAT. Additional costs will need to be taken into account for site survey, disposal of old holders, installation and wall repair work if required. When finalising the specification, the flagpole holders to be used to display the Christmas Trees.

At this juncture, S Pringle Kosikowsky joined the meeting

c) King's Coronation Celebrations Events Sunday 7th May 2023:

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the projected costs of up £20,000 to cover the King's Coronation Celebrations event on Sunday 7th May 2023 be agreed. The event to be funded from the Jubilee/Coronation budget carried over and other funding to be agreed. Event details as follows:

- To support Friends of Wellington Park and provide performers/entertainment for the Spring Fayre.
- To accept the offer from Wellington Rugby Club to have full use of their Club facilities and pitches to run sporting activities for families. Town Council Officers to work with the Rugby Club and Sports Federation to encourage all sporting clubs in Wellington to take part in event.
- Other activities will include Children's Roundabout, Inflatable Assault Course and much more.
- To accept the offer from Wellington Rugby Club to host the firework finale on the evening of Sunday 2023.
- To provide posters, banners, event programme and advertising on social media pages and to advertise locally.

482 ANNUAL STREET FAIR 2023:

RESOLVED to amend the resolution made at the last committee meeting held on 15th November 2022 to hold the Street Fair on Saturday 3rd June 2023

483 RIFLES REGIMENT: FREEDOM OF THE TOWN 17TH JUNE 2023

Town Clerk gave an update on the event:

- Parade will start from Wellington School at approximately 2pm.
- Parade route to be confirmed with Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival before road closure application is submitted to Somerset West & Taunton District Council.
- Military Regiments to park and use the facilities of the Wellington Prep-school.

- In the event of bad weather, the presentation of the scroll will be in Wellington School Chapel – consider livestreaming event.
- Wellington School to host reception – cost of refreshments to be confirmed.
- Wellington Recreation Ground provisionally booked to host other re-enactment groups.
- Town Council to send out invitations.
- Town Council to provide a press officer to work with the Rifles Press Officer – event marketing to start January 2023.
- Working Group next meeting Wednesday 18th January 2023.

484 CHRISTMAS 2022

- a) The Committee were very pleased with the Christmas Light Switch on event and thanked the Council Officers for their efforts in putting the event on.
 - Christmas Light Switch on 2023 – The Committee considered “the switch on” being the last activity of the event . This will keep the crowd entertained until the end.
- b) New Christmas Light Contract 2023 – The public survey results received saw that people were very much in favour of our current Christmas Lights Scheme. The Committee discussed in detail what the people wanted to see.

RESOLVED to expand the current scheme beyond its current scope. Town Council Officers to start pulling costs together for the following:

- Christmas Tree and Lights – Rockwell Green. Tree Location: Villa Verde Italian Restaurant Car Park, Exeter Road.
 - Lighting in Cornhill
 - Lighting in South Street
- c) Christmas Shop Window Competition 2023:
RESOLVED to take on the running of the Christmas Shop Window Competition.

485 EMERGENCY TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY FUND

Expenditure Report circulated prior to the meeting.

- a. **Living Walls on Town Centre Barriers**
Consent application to erect the Living Displays had been submitted to Somerset County Council Traffic Management. Await approval.
- b. **Community Photography Project:** Councillor J Lloyd (Chair) reported that Somerset West and Taunton District Council and Minehead Town Council like the project and now looking to do something similar in their town.
- c. **Creative Workshops for Children** - Councillor C Govier asked how well was this being received? Assets & Events Manager reported that there was a steady stream of children. Feedback received was that everyone who took part enjoyed it.

486 CORNHILL – VICTORIAN LANTERN

The Committee were pleased the lantern had been found and wait receipt from Somerset County Council Highway Lighting Team.

487 TOWN COUNCIL MASCOT

The committee discussed this at length. Concerns were raised whether this was value for money, who would wear the costume and where the Mascot would be used. The committee did agree that the “Fox” would be the most appropriate animal to have as a mascot. As the Fox’s name is very recognised and associated with Wellington.

RESOLVED not to proceed with the two options detailed in the Agenda: Option 1 – Town Council to purchase their own costume. Option 2 – Town Council to book Fuse Performance Ltd.

RESOLVED to have more engagement with the people of Wellington and carry out some market research to see if there is interest in a Town Council Mascot. To hire a performer and fox’s costume from Fuse Performance Ltd and arrange an event/day for the fox mascot to be in town. Results to be fed back to the Town Centre Committee.

488 WELLINGTON TOWN ROAD SIGNS

Councillor J Lloyd (Chair) asked if Wellington’s Britain in Bloom Silver Gilt Award could be added to the town road signs.

RESOLVED not to have the Rotary Club Logo on the town road signs.

RESOLVED to approve Officer spending of up to £2,500 to allow for contingency for unexpected costs. Subject to it being clarified that the £2,500 is for all four signs and not just one.

489 WELLINGTON FOOTFALL REPORTS

Reports were circulated prior to the meeting, for information:

- i. Monthly Footfall Reports for November saw an 8% drop in footfall compared to October. December footfall saw a 4% increase.
- ii. Footfall Report saw 3,960 visits for the Christmas Market & Light Switch on Event Saturday 26th November 2022

490 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 6pm – United Reformed Church Hall.

The meeting ended at 7.35pm

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Councillor Janet Lloyd
Chair