

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 6 FEBRUARY 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor)

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

David Farrow (Town Clerk)

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

500. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor W Battishill.

502. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

503. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Town Council and Planning Meetings held on the 9 January 2023.

504. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One member of the public spoke in relation to the implementation of Local Community Networks. The Town Clerk advised that this was to be an agenda item on the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 20 February 2023.

505. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sergeant Kat Forrest was welcomed to the meeting. Her report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. Councillor M Barr raised a concern regarding the mobile speed cameras at the old Moonbeams entrance and Sergeant Forrest agreed to look into the matter. Councillor Lloyd asked what crimes fell under the definition of 'miscellaneous' and Sergeant Forrest explained that it could be anything not covered by another category.

506. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

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

507. SOMERSET COUNTY AND UNITARY COUNCIL PROGRESS UPDATE

Councillor M Barr reported that next year the Town Council would be responsible for filling grit bins. The Unitary Council would offer a service to do so but would charge for it. He also said that the Council would be reviewing CCTV provision across the County as much of it needed updating.

Councillor A Govier reported that a balanced budget had been set for next year but using significant amounts of reserves. He also said that he understood that the Small Improvement Scheme through which County Councillors could ask for things like additional road crossings, was to be scrapped.

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The Town Clerk said that he continued to chase progress on the arrangements for the delegated planning arrangements for next year. He also advised Councillors that the draft budget for Taunton Town Council had been published and that it was worth noting that it would be responsible for all public toilets and the majority of green spaces in the town. He said it was an indication of what Wellington Town Council may be asked to take on at some stage.

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

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda. He gave an update on the Green Corridor Consultation and the Council noted its thanks to Simon Ratsey who was stepping down as Tree Warden. The Mayor will write to thank him officially.

509. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 and relevant supporting papers had been circulated with the agenda.

The Town Council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the Councillors Working Group that had reviewed the Service Level Agreement with Wellington Community Counselling as follows:

- (i) That 348 hours should be provided so to come in line with a full number of courses of 12 hours.
- (ii) Yearly payments/costings
 - (a) In year 1 (23-24) the cost being £50 per hour = £17,400
 - (b) In year 2 (24-25) the cost being £55 per hour = £19,140
 - (c) In year 3 (25-26) the cost being £60 per hour = £20,880
- (iii) Item 5 of Appendix B of the SLA will be updated to reflect that trainee Counsellors shall also be subject to the same requirements for insurance etc.

510. ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

511. TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 were circulated with the agenda and were noted.

In relation to arrangements for marking the King's Coronation it was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Council approve the quotation from Insignia Ltd in the sum of £4,832.00 + VAT for 3,200 coins for children in the town including early years, home schooled and special needs children living in Wellington but attending a school elsewhere.
- (ii) That the projected costs of up £20,000 to cover the King's Coronation Celebrations event on Sunday 7th May 2023 as set out in the attached paper, be agreed. The event to be funded from the Jubilee/Coronation budget carried over from 2022/23 (£11,000) and other funding to be agreed.

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- (iii) That the Council support Friends of Wellington Park and provide performers/entertainment for the Spring Fayre on the 7 May 2023.
- (iv) That the Council accept the offer from Wellington Rugby Club to have full use of their Club facilities and pitches to run sporting activities for families on the 7 May 2023. Town Council Officers to work with the Rugby Club and Sports Federation to encourage all sporting clubs in Wellington to take part in the event.

In relation to replacing the flagpoles in the town, it was **RESOLVED** that in light of additional information that had been presented to officers since the Committee meeting further information was required before a final decision could be made.

512. REQUEST FROM BEECH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR FUNDING FROM THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS BUDGET

A paper had been circulated with the agenda and it was **RESOLVED** to pay £3,720 to Beech Grove Primary School from the Cost of Living Crisis Budget to enable it to extend its Breakfast Club and provide additional food for some pupils at the school.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

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