

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON 20 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 4.00pm

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

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

521 Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor S Booker.

522 Declarations of Interest

Councillors M Lithgow, M Barr, A Govier, J Lloyd and K Wheatley declared an interest in agenda item 5 as members of Somerset West and Taunton Council.

Councillor K Wheatley declared a further interest in agenda item 5 as a member of Wellington Mills Community Interest Company.

523 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 12 and 19 December 2022.

524 Questions and Comments from Members of the Public

A member of the public spoke in relation to the implementation of Local Community Networks.

525 Request for Funding to Support Works at Toneworks

Joe Wharton, Assistant Director Major and Special Projects and Amy Kemmish Project Manager Heritage at Risk with Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) joined the meeting and Standing Orders were suspended to allow them to make a presentation relating to the need for additional funding to address urgent unfunded issues at Tonedale Works and for Councillors to ask questions.

Standing Orders were reinstated and after some discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Committee should recommend to the Town Council that £50,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding should be allocated to support the work outlined by SWT Officers on the basis that it would support opening up parts of the site to the public.

Councillor J Thorne asked that it be noted that he voted against the proposal.

526. To Review the Town Council Disciplinary Procedure

A draft procedure had been circulated with the agenda. After some discussion the Town Clerk was asked to undertake more work on the procedure and re-present it at the next meeting.

527. To Review the Town Councils Absence Management Procedure

The current procedure had been circulated with the agenda with a recommendation that no changes were required. After some discussion the Town Clerk was asked to undertake more work on the procedure and re-present it at the next meeting.

528. Proposal to Adopt a Town Council Sponsorship Policy

A draft policy had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend adoption of the Sponsorship Policy to the Town Council.

529. Proposal for Oversight of Heritage Matters in the Town

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend that the terms of reference of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee be amended to include having oversight of heritage matters in the town and that the Committee be renamed the Environment and Heritage Committee.

530. Longforth Road Toilet Block

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED**

- (i) Not to accept the recommendation to form a Sub Committee of four councillors to work with officers to develop proposals for consideration by the Town Council.
- (ii) To agree the draft specification for commissioning a Project Manager circulated with the agenda to oversee the project and liaise with insurers, specialist contractors and other professionals as necessary to create a proposal for the Council to consider.

531. Proposal to Rename the Taunton Road to Queen Elizabeth Way

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED** to proceed with the process to seek to rename the Taunton Road from the Chelston Roundabout to the town centre as Queen Elizabeth Way to honour the memory of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II once guidance had been published by the Cabinet Office.

532. Request for Contribution to Repair the Boardwalk at The Basins

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree to pay £3,000 from the Environmental Improvements budget to SWT as a contribution to the costs of replacing the boardwalk.

The Town Clerk agreed to present a paper to the next meeting of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee in relation to The Crown Estate Land around The Basins.

533. Health and Safety Support

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the quotation from WT Consultancy (SW) Ltd and for the Committee to review the contract annually.

534. Allotment and Inspections Applications

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the implementation of the Allotment, Park Inspection and Asset Manager app from CloudyIT subject to a satisfactory 30-day free trial by Officers.

535. Local Government Reorganisation

535.1 Local Community Networks (LCN)

After some discussion the Committee **RESOLVED** not to make any recommendation in relation to who should represent the Council on the LCN rather it would be decided at the Annual Meeting when other representatives for external bodies are determined.

535.2 Taunton Town Council

It was noted that the intention was that the new Taunton Town Council would be given responsibility for many green spaces and associated play areas as well as public toilets in the town. It was also reported by the Town Clerk that under the Asset and Service devolution LCN pilot Sedgemoor District Council was proposing to transfer its green spaces to Bridgwater Town Council. This is probably indicative of what may be devolved to Wellington Town Council in the future.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.30pm

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Councillor Mark Lithgow
Chairman