

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 6 MARCH 2023**

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

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor)

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

David Farrow (Town Clerk)

Sarah Goodman (Project Officer)

One member of the press and three members of the public were in attendance. Two representatives of MIND Somerset and three representatives of Somerset West and Taunton Council were also present in relation to agenda items 8 and 13 (i)(a) respectively.

**554. TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

**555. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors S Booker and J Lloyd. Councillor W Battishill had advised the Clerk that he may be late to the meeting.

**556. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor K Wheatley declared an interest in agenda item 13(i)(a) as a director of the Wellington Mills Community Interest Company.

**557. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Town Council and Planning Meetings held on the 6 February 2023.

**558. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Two members of the public spoke.

The first spoke in relation to Page Path where there had been fly tipping and it had become overgrown and the concern was that no one appeared to be responsible for it. The Town Clerk advised that the path did not appear on the Definitive Map but that an application had been made for it to be added. However, that process could take a number of years to be completed. Whilst it was not on the Definitive Map there was little that could be done to address the concerns.

The second related to agenda item 13(i)(a) and raised concerns about whether Community Infrastructure Levy funding would be better spent elsewhere in the town and that Langford Budville Parish Council had not been spoken to about the proposal. The request was made that the decision should be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee until those discussion had taken place.

**559. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM**

The report from Sergeant Kat Forrest had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. Sergeant Forrest was unable to attend the meeting.

**560. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM JURASSIC FIBRE**

Jack Bostman, Community Engagement Ambassador for Jurassic Fibre detailed the work the company was undertaking in the town. The Mayor thanked Mr Bostman for his presentation.

**561. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR THE DELIVERY OF A YOUTH PEER SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAMME IN WELLINGTON**

A paper detailing the proposal had been circulated with the agenda. The Town Council **RESOLVED** to agree to enter into a three-year Service Level Agreement with MIND Somerset to deliver a Youth Peer Support Group Programme in the town and that it would contribute £5,565 per annum towards the cost of delivery.

**562. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

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

**563. SOMERSET COUNTY AND UNITARY COUNCIL PROGRESS UPDATE**

Councillor M Barr noted that this was the last meeting where he and Councillors A Govier and R Henley would be a Somerset County Councillor and that at the next meeting they would be Somerset Council Councillors when the new authority came into existence.

Councillor A Govier reported that he continued to raise concerns about dentistry in the town and said that whilst the Council had been able to set a budget for 2023/24, he expected there to be difficult discussion about being able to set a balanced budget in 2024/25.

Councillor R Henley outlined work he was undertaking in his role as Associate Lead Member for Public Health.

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

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda. He highlighted the positive site visit and meetings in relation to the railway station that took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> February and also welcomed Sarah Goodman who had been appointed to the Town Council as Project Officer.

**563. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2023 and relevant supporting papers had been circulated with the agenda.

The Town Council **RESOLVED** that the asset register be accepted after updating the date that the Mayoral Robes were inherited and that the Council's insurance for 23-24 should remain with Zurich for one year at a cost of £3,845.

The Town Council noted the decisions that the Committee had taken under its delegated powers.

**564. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 February 2023 had been circulated with the agenda along with supporting papers for the recommendations.

The Town Council **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To allocate £50,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy funding to support work at Toneworks on the basis that it would support opening up parts of the site to the public.
- (ii) That the draft Sponsorship Policy be adopted.

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- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.

The Town Council noted the decisions that the Committee had taken under its delegated powers.

### **565. ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 20 February had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

### **566. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CONTAINER AT FOX'S FIELD**

A request for additional funding for installing a storage container at Fox's Field had been considered by the Environment and Open Spaces Committee at its meeting on the 17 January 2023 but was omitted from the February Council agenda in error. The paper setting out the proposal had been circulated with the agenda.

The Town Council **RESOLVED** that a further £2,000 be made available from the Green Corridor Budget to support the installation of the storage facility, hardstanding for its base and for a parking area on the proviso that the Town Council retained ownership of the storage container.

### **567. TO AGREE THE BUDGET FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE RIFLES AND ARMED FORCES DAY EVENTS 17 JUNE 2023**

A draft budget had been circulated with the agenda.

The Town Council **RESOLVED** to agree the budget for the events circulated with the agenda and draw down £12,000 from reserves if needed to add to existing budgets noting that officers would work to reduce costs by seeking sponsors for the events and by utilising other sources of funding e.g. the Emergency High Street Fund. The detailed costings would be discussed at the March Town Centre Committee meeting.

### **568. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2023**

The Town Council **RESOLVED** to hold a community consultation event in the town centre on Saturday 18 March between 10:00am and 1:00pm to allow members of the community to speak to Councillors and for Councillors to seek the community's views on issues such as the proposal for a Town Mascot, the next stage of the community consultation and the work of the Town Council in general.

### **569. DATES FOR 2023 ANNUAL MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Town Council **RESOLVED** that the Annual Meeting of the Council will take place on 3 May 2023 at 6:00pm and that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 17 May 2023 at 6:00pm to incorporate presentations from agencies that have received funding from the Council over the previous year and the presentation of Civic Awards.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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**STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Members of Somerset County Council:</b> Councillor Andrew Govier Councillor Marcus Barr Councillor Ross Henley	<b>Members of Somerset West and Taunton Council:</b> 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 .....