

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2023 AT 4.00 PM

Present: Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)
Councillors M Barr, C Booth, C Govier M Lithgow and J Lloyd

In attendance: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
Councillors A Govier and K Wheatley
Jo O'Hara, Heritage at Risk Manager, Somerset West and Taunton Council (for agenda item 6)
Steve Saunders Footpath Volunteer Coordinator
1 Member of the press

577 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

578 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

579 MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 as a true record.

580 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions.

581 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Following the decision of the Town Council to rename the Committee and expand its role to have oversight of heritage matters in the town, the Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Town Council adopt the revised Terms of Reference that had been circulated with the agenda.

582 HERITAGE UPDATE

A report on heritage matters in the town from Jo O'Hara, Programme Manager, Heritage at Risk and Amy Kemmish, Project Manager Heritage at Risk, Somerset West and Taunton Council had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Town Clerk explained that this would be a standing item on the agenda.

583 CROWN ESTATE LAND

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. After some discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk should explore potential liabilities relating to the land further and report back to the next meeting of the Committee

584 GREEN CORRIDOR LAND

- (a) The notes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 were noted.
- (b) The Town Clerk reported that he was pleased with the number of responses to the survey which exceeded 260 and said he would circulate the summary of the findings to all councillors.

- (c) **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Chris Groves Associates for the removal of 30 dead elm trees from the Basins Allotment boundary.
- (d) **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Town Council that it agrees the outline terms for the underlease for the Community Farm Pilot Project as contained in the report circulated with the agenda.
- (e) **RESOLVED** to agree a contribution of £3,000 from the Green Corridor Budget towards the total cost of installing stock proof fencing along the boundary of the Community Farm Field and The Nature Reserve, the installation of rabbit proof fencing around the Community Farm Food Area and the replacement of the gate to the field from the Basins area.
- (f) **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Atworth Arboriculture Ltd to undertake a tree safety survey along footpaths in the Green Corridor.
- (g) **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Town Council that £5,000 be set aside from the Playing Pitch Strategy budget to enable a feasibility study to be carried out in relation to the potential provision of new junior sports pitches in the Green Corridor.

585 CARBON POLICY REVIEW

A paper from the Chair of the Committee is attached for consideration and a further paper was circulated at the meeting. The Chair outlined the progress that had been made and how he was planning to take this agenda forward with support from the Council’s newly recruited Project Officer

586 SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON DISTRICT COUNCIL – GRASS CUTTING RICHARDS CLOSE PLAYAREA AND EMPTYING DOG BINS - 2023/2024

RESOLVED to recommend to the Town Council that it accepts Somerset West and Taunton District Council’s quotation for £8907.34 plus VAT, for grass cutting at Richards Close Play area and emptying bins in 2023/2024. To review the position for 2024/2025.

587 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN UPDATE

The Town Clerk advised the committee that the project was almost complete with a workshop planned for later this week to review the cycling audits that had been undertaken by the Wellington Wheelers.

588 FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders circulated his report at the meeting and provided an update. The Committee thanked him and the volunteers for their work.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.30 pm

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Councillor M McGuffie
Chairman