

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON TUESDAY 18 JULY 2023 AT 4.00 PM**

**Present:** Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)  
Councillors M Barr, C Booth and C Govier

**In attendance:** David Farrow (Town Clerk)  
Councillor J Thorne  
Charles Biscoe, Wellington Wheelers for agenda item 10  
One member of the press and one member of the public

**137. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors M Lithgow and K Wheatley

**138. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**139. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2023.

**140 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

One member of the public spoke in relation to the work he had been doing monitoring butterflies around the town. The Town Clerk said that he would take up the offer of sharing the data he had gathered to help support an assessment of the level of biodiversity in the town's green spaces.

**141. HERITAGE UPDATE**

(i) Amy Kemmish, Project Manager - Heritage at Risk, Somerset Council was unable to attend the meeting. Her report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Town Clerk was asked to seek clarification on what action was being taken in relation to Teare's Newsagents given that the Section 215 Notice had expired and also what action could be taken in relation to the old Shauls and Children's Hospice buildings given they are both in the conservation area and in a very poor state of repair.

(ii) It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a Council Working Group is established to have oversight of the work taking place at Tonedale Mill in light of the decision of the current directors of Wellington Mills Community Interest Company to step down.

**142 FOOTPATH UPDATE**

No update had been received.

**143 CROWN ESTATE LAND**

The Town Clerk reported that following the decision of Full Council to proceed with the purchase of the land the Council's solicitors had been instructed and had contacted the Crown Estate solicitors and the matter was now proceeding.

#### **144. GREEN CORRIDOR ADVISORY BOARD**

The notes of the Advisory Board Meeting held on 12 July 2023 had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were noted. The Town Clerk advised that the Council's Assets and Events Officer would be walking the land with the Council's Health and Safety Adviser on 19 July 2023.

#### **145. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

An updated draft strategy had been circulated with the agenda for comment. It was noted that activities such as the Foodbank should not be conflated with a response to the climate emergency as they were a result of the need of support as a result of cost of living issues.

#### **146. LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (LCWIP) UPDATE**

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Charles Biscoe, Wellington Wheelers, to explain the work he and the group had done to produce the paper being considered and to take questions.

Standing Orders were reinstated

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the submission prepared by the Wellington Wheelers should be included in the LCWIP recognising that it is aspirational and that for it to be implemented there would need to be more work done and that it was not something that could be delivered in the short term.

#### **147. BASINS ALLOTMENTS ADVISORY BOARD**

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that:

- (i) The Draft Terms of Reference for the Basins Allotments Advisory Board be adopted.
- (ii) That Councillors Janet Lloyd and Catherine Govier be the Council's representatives on the Board along with four tenants.
- (iii) That the proposed amendments to the Committees Terms of Reference to reflect this change be adopted.

#### **148. TREE STRATEGY**

It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To recommend to Full Council that the Fruit Tree Project is approved and that £5,400 is committed from the Environmental Improvement budget for the purchase of 300 dwarf apple trees to be given free of charge to residents and schools,
- (ii) To note the Somerset Council Tree Strategy (copy attached to the agenda) and for further consideration to be given to how it could be implemented in Wellington, and
- (iii) To recommend to Full Council that work should be undertaken to establish where trees could be planted around the town starting with land owned by the Town Council and Somerset Council owned land.

The Town Clerk was asked to develop a proposal for an annual budget for tree planting.

**149. REQUEST FOR LITTER BIN**

Information relating to a request for an additional waste bin at Popes Lane had been circulated with the agenda and was tabled at the meeting. After some discussion the Committee asked the Assets and Events Officer and Chair to do more work in relation to establishing the need for a bin at this location and also to bring back to the Committee a map showing the location of bins around the town to enable a more strategic approach to be taken to establishing where bins were needed.

**150.SIGN FOR ROLY POLY GREEN**

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Booth and Officers should progress the project to design and install a sign on Roly Poly Green ,as proposed, with a view to bringing proposals back to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

**151.TOWN CENTRE ENGAGEMENT**

A list of potential actions for the Committee formed from a list of suggestions provided to the Town Centre Committee had been circulated with the agenda. It was agreed that officers would review and report back relevant actions to the next Committee meeting.

**152. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that from September 2023 the committee will meet every other month in the second week of the month i.e. the week after the Council meeting has been held.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.00 pm**

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**Councillor M McGuffie**  
**Chairman**