

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Wellington Town Centre Committee held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Fore Street, Wellington TA21 8AG on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 6.00pm

Present: Councillors S. Booker (Chair), M. Barr, C. Booth, C. Govier, M. Lithgow, K Wheatley
Non-Councillors S. Davis, M.Evans.

In Attendance: Alice Kendall – Deputy Clerk
Annette Kirk – Assets & Events Officer

Councillor J. Thorne (non-member)

Four members of the public
One member of the press

125 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor J Lloyd and non-councillors S. Pringle-Kosikowsky and Z Old.

126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

127 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Centre Committee meeting held on 16th and 25th May 2023.

128 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Member of the public spoke regarding The Rifles Freedom and a legacy to Wellington.

RESOLVED to move forward item 11, Wellington Produce Market.

129 WELLINGTON PRODUCE MARKET

RESOLVED suspend standing orders to allow Wellington Produce Market to answer questions from the Committee.

Assets & Events Officer had spoken with Wellington Produce Market to discuss the concerns raised by Councillors and South Street Retailers. We looked at options to relocate the market. The High Street was suggested, this being a much wider street, which in turn would attract more stalls. This would also encourage more community groups to potentially get involved, together with more entertainment.

The Committee acknowledged the concerns raised by South Street retailers and would be happy to see the market moved to High Street. The Committee would like to see more variety of stalls. They would like to see the market rebranded to “Wellington Market.”

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders

RESOLVED to support Wellington Produce Market to move the market into High Street.

130 TOWN CENTRE ENGAGEMENT

The Chairman circulated a list of ideas raised by residents and businesses. He asked that members reviewed the list before the next meeting and forward to him any additional comments and suggestions of their own. The Committee would then prioritise what they wanted to put in place up to the end of the current council year.

The Committee felt some of the suggestions on the list would better deal by other council committees. It was agreed the list of ideas would be circulated to those committees.

131 MAYOR'S CRICKET AND FOOTBALL MATCH

The Mayor, Councillor M Barr requested the use of Council resources to arrange cricket and football matches for the mayor's fund.

RESOLVED to approve 3 hours of Council Resources to assist the Mayor in setting up the cricket and football matches. Anything above 3 hours or funding needed to put on the events will need to come back to the Town Centre Committee for approval.

132 POP UP SHOP

The Deputy Clerk gave an update report on bookings, confirming the shop was fully booked until the end of the year.

The Committee discussed the Pop-Up Shop refurbishment, as detailed in the Deputy Clerk's report.

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Somerset Sign and Print in the sum of £260 to replace the façade banner and remove the arrows off the windows in the sum of £20 per window. The committee agreed that the Deputy Clerk should write a formal letter to the landlord to address the condition of the shop and pursue the outstanding repairs. The letter will request follow up information from the Landlord in time for the next meeting. It was agreed, however, that a collaborative approach be taken with the Committee agreeing to carry out some of the internal decorations (i.e. painting and carpeting).

133 EVENTS 2023/24

a) ANNUAL STREET FAIR 3RD JUNE 2023

RECOMMENDATION to Full Council to approve the date for 2024 Street Fair - Saturday 1st June.

b) RIFLES REGIMENT-FREEDOM OF THE TOWN 17TH JUNE 2023

The Committee discussed keeping The Rifles JustGiving page open.

RESOLVED to keep The Rifles JustGiving page open up until the next Town Centre Committee meeting on 12th September. When they will decide whether to continue with the page. The Committee asked Council Officers to increase the promotion of the JustGiving page through social media platforms and posters.

c) WELLINGTON CARNIVAL – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023 – MAYORS RECEPTION

The Mayor, Councillor M Barr asked for the Committee's support to hold a reception. Venue to be confirmed.

RESOLVED to support the Mayor holding a Carnival Reception and use of Council resources.

d) CHRISTMAS MARKET AND LIGHT SWITCH ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2023

The Committee would like to see more childrens' activities, e.g., Roundabout as in previous years. Consider a Snow Globe etc., Marion Evans to provide other activity ideas to the Assets & Events Officer.

Councillor J Thorne asked what measures were being put in place to ensure those applying for stalls at Council events were carrying out the activities detailed on their applications. Council Officers will look at ways of tightening up the process of vetting stall applications and come back to the next Town Centre Committee.

134 EVENTS 2024/25

The Committee discussed D Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations between 2nd and 10th June 2024 and merging it with the Street Fair on Saturday 1st June 2024. The Committee would encourage other activities including a shop window competition, fancy dress competitions and other activities. To include the schools, pre-schools, and nurseries. Assets & Events Officer to bring the National Guide for the event to the next Town Centre Committee

RECOMMENDATION to Full Council to approve merging of the D Day 80 Anniversary Celebrations with the Street Fair on 1st June 2024. This to start a week of activities.

135 FUTURE ROAD CLOSURE FEES

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that a letter of complaint be written to Somerset Council objecting to the charges for road closures for community events.

136 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 12th September 2023

The meeting ended at 7.10pm

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Councillor S Booker
Chair