

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON 15 AUGUST 2023 AT 4.00pm

Present: Councillors C Govier (Chair), A Govier, M Lithgow, J Lloyd, M McGuffie and J Thorne.

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

182. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors M Barr and K Wheatley

183. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2023.

184. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Thorne declared a personal interest in item 9 as he is a personal friend of the person making the proposal.

Councillor J Lloyd declared a financial interest in agenda item 10 as she and her husband are in receipt of pensions from Somerset Council.

Councillor A Govier declared a financial interest in item 10 as his wife receives a pension from Somerset Council.

185. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public spoke in relation to agenda item 9 having written to the Mayor and Town Clerk suggesting how a legacy could be created following the granting of The Freedom of the Town to The Rifles Regiment.

At this stage, it was **RESOLVED** to bring item 9 forward for discussion.

186. THE RIFLES REGIMENT FREEDOM LEGACY

The Committee welcomed the suggestions for developing a legacy following the Granting of the Freedom of the Town to The Rifles Regiment. The consensus was that this should develop over time and that it was for individual organisations such as schools and the local Cadet Force to develop those links and not for the Council to manage. It was agreed that the Council would fly the Regimental Flag that it had been gifted by the Regiment on Salamanca Day and on the anniversary of the granting of The Freedom. It was also agreed that the Town Clerk should write to The Rifles Museum offering it the opportunity of using the Pop-Up Shop and also to the Musical Director of the regimental band inviting them to perform in the town in the future.

187. LONGFORTH ROAD TOILET BLOCK UPDATE

Copies of the updated project plan and had been circulated prior to the meeting and hard copies were tabled at the meeting.

The Town Clerk reported that the projected completion date had now been brought back to December 2024 but that this was still subject to change.

He also reported that whilst it had been hoped that initial surveys could be done whilst the front of the building was made secure through propping and scaffolding; it was now apparent that this was not sufficient and the advice of the structural engineer and Project Manager was that it needed to be taken down.

It was not possible at this stage to put a cost on this which should dictate the procurement process followed. This needed to be balanced with the need to carry out the work quickly to secure the site to enable other work to commence and also to remove a significant health and safety risk.

On that basis it was **RESOLVED** that, given the safety aspects and time constraints, a list of approved contractors provided by Ravenslade (Arque Ltd, Mercury Construction and Lancer Scott) be used for quotations rather than closed tendering procurement as per Financial Regulation 18c, if the estimated amount is likely to be over £25,000. It was also asked that a local contractor be approached to bid for the work.

also It was further **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £754.75 from Halpin Robbins for the Bat and Nesting Bird - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

188. TOWN COUNCIL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that it should mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Town Council in April 2024, that expenditure should be kept to a minimum and that the Town Centre Committee should have oversight of the arrangements.

189. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS' (NALC) CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

After some discussion it was proposed and duly seconded, to recommend to Full Council that the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge should be adopted. There were two votes in favour and four against. The motion was not carried

190. DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the draft Dignity at Work Policy be adopted.

191. COUNCILLOR - OFFICER PROTOCOL

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the draft Councillor - Officer Protocol be adopted.

192. SOMERSET COUNCIL PENSION FUND – CONSULTATION ON FUNDING STRATEGY STATEMENT

The Committee had no comments to make on the Somerset Council Funding Strategy Statement.

193. TORRES VEDRAS TWINNING VISIT 26th – 30th OCTOBER 2023

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the reasonable costs of travel for one Council representative to attend the twinning visit for the 26 – 30th October 2023

should be met by the Council. It was noted that the Mayor should represent the Council. If the Mayor was unavailable, then the Deputy Mayor should attend and if they are unavailable then a volunteer should be sought from other Council members.

It was further **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that this principal should be applied to any invitation for Civic visits from twinning towns.

194. TOWN HALL CLOCKS

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that it takes on responsibility for the costs of running and maintaining the clocks on the old Town Hall from Somerset Council. The annual costs are estimated at £250pa for an annual service and £200pa for electricity costs.

195. TO CONSIDER RESOLVING TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960. The reason being that item 14 on the agenda refers to matters which are commercially sensitive and confidential.

196. TOWN COUNCIL ACCOMODATION

The contents of this minute are confidential.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.45pm.

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Councillor Catherine Govier
Chairman