



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
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**Members of the Public and the Press are invited to attend all Council Meetings
(Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)**

Dear Councillors,

You are hereby summoned to attend the following meeting:

Meeting	Council Meeting
Time	7.00pm
Date	2 October 2023
Place	United Reformed Church Hall, Fore Street TA21 8AG

Councillors will be discussing all the items listed on the attached Agenda and minutes will be available online after the meeting.

Yours faithfully

David Farrow
Town Clerk
01823 662855
info@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

26 September 2023

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. MINUTES SILENCE

The Council will hold a minute's silence as a mark of respect for former Councillor Steve Palmer who sadly died recently.

3. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

If you cannot attend, please send your apology and reason to the Town Clerk.

Councillors are reminded that failure to attend any Council meeting for 6 months, full council or committee/s, will result in them automatically ceasing to be a councillor irrespective of whether apologies are given.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

Standing declarations made by Councillors are set out at the end of the agenda.

5. MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council and Planning meetings held on 4 September 2023 (copies attached).

6. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Public Attendance: For those members of the public who wish to ask a question or make a statement a three-minute time limit applies to each speaker.

N.B Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that is not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

A report from Sergeant Jon O'Connor will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

8. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

9. SOMERSET COUNCIL/ LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

Somerset Council Councillors, Councillor Catherine Govier and the Town Clerk to provide an update on any issues of interest to the Town Council.

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

A report from the Town Clerk is attached to the agenda.

11. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023 are attached for information and consideration. Councillor Lithgow will provide an update at the meeting. The Committee resolved to make the following **RECOMMENDATION** to the Council:

- (i) That IAC be reappointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for the next three years on the basis set out in the fee letter which has been circulated with the agenda.

12. TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023 are attached for information and consideration. Councillor C Govier will provide an update. The Committee resolved to make the following recommendation to the Council:

- (i) to approve the Mayor having use of the Pop-Up Shop for two weeks in January for Mayor's Fund Raising. The Mayor to cover the cost of electric.
- (ii) to approve the following arrangements to mark the 50th anniversary of the Town Council in April 2024:
- To convert 15 VHS tapes to digital files at £10.00 per tape. These tapes include a range of films of civic events recorded by the late former Councillor Terry Milton. Councillor K. Wheatley said he would come back to the next Town Centre Committee meeting with a cost to put the tapes together to make a film, that could be shown at the film festival in 2024.
 - To hire the Pop-up Shop for week in April – to work alongside Wellington Museum who will display a range of items and papers from the past 50 years, as well as pieces relating to the Urban District Council. To create displays giving information on: "How to become a Councillor". "What Do Councillors Do". To consider inviting former Councillors to occupy the shop and speak about their experiences on the Council.
 - To hold a Civic Service in April 2024 at St. Johns Church – to invite Councillors who have served during the 50 years of the Town Council. The Councillors to be recognised during the event. Reception to be held in Church Hall after the service.

13. ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023 are attached for information and consideration. Councillor M McGuffie will provide an update. The Committee resolved to make the following **RECOMMENDATION** to the Council:

- (i) That it supports the principle of establishing a Greenway Route to Taunton utilising the route of the Grand Western Canal and
- (ii) The Council demonstrates that support by setting aside a sum of money in future years budgets to support the development of the Greenway recognising the health and environmental benefits that it would bring to the Wellington community.

14. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 22/23

The External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP, has returned Section 3 (External Auditor Report and Certificate 2022/23) of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return which is attached with the public notice of conclusion of audit. The contents should be formally noted by the Council.

15. FLOODING IN WELLINGTON

To consider the events that led to parts of the town being flooded on the 17 September and how the Town Council should respond. A paper is attached for consideration.

16. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

To consider whether the Council should adopt the National Association of Local Councils Civility and Respect Pledge. A paper is attached for consideration.

17. CORNHILL VICTORIAN LANTERN

The Council is asked to agree:

- (i) the costs for the refurbishment of the Cornhill Victorian Lantern to include shot blasting the lantern before powder coating it in black and installing four new glass panels. Two quotes have been received:

Anubis Contracting & Engineering Ltd, Tiverton - £930.00

LS Fabrications, West Buckland - £660.00

- (ii) That the Assets & Events Officer commission a structural engineer to confirm the archway is structurally sound to hold the lantern or if not to identify what work is required to make it so and to obtain permission from the owner of former Children's Hospice Charity Shop for its installation.
- (iii) Further work will then need to be done to get a power supply to the lantern. Costs to be agreed by the Town Centre Committee.

18. TO APPROVE HIRE OF A SKIP TO ENABLE CLEARANCE OF ALLOTMENTS

The Council is asked to authorise officers to hire a skip for one day to enable clearance of allotments that have become vacant at a cost of £500.

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

To resolve: that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting. The reason for this is that item 19 refers to matters which are commercially sensitive and confidential.

19. THE LONGFORTH ROAD TOILET BLOCK

To consider quotes for work on the Longforth Road toilet Block. The Council is asked to **RESOLVE** which companies should be awarded contracts to undertake the work. Detailed papers will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset County Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier

Councillor Marcus Barr

Councillor Ross Henley