

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 19th September 2023 at 6.00pm

Present: Councillors: C. Govier (Chair), M. Barr, C. Booth, M. Lithgow, K Wheatley
Non-Councillors: S. Pringle-Kosikowsky

In Attendance: Annette Kirk – Assets & Events Officer
Councillor J. Thorne (non-member)
One member of the press

236 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor J Lloyd and non-councillors Z Old, M. Vincent. S. Davis.

237 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

238 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Centre Committee meeting held on 11th July and the Extra-Ordinary Meeting on 23rd August 2023.

239 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance.

240 TOWN CENTRE ENGAGEMENT

The Committee discussed the idea of a digital notice board. The Committee asked that the Assets & Events Officer bring back to the next meeting quotations for a digital notice board with suitable locations. S Pringle-Kosikowsky said digital notice board would be an efficient way of getting notices/messages out to the public, as well as promoting Town Council events.

Other ideas would be brought to the Town Council Vision meeting.

241 POP UP SHOP

The Committee were provided with an update report prior to the meeting on the repairs and maintenance. The Deputy Clerk and Cllr K Wheatley to meet with the Landlords in October to further review the progress made. Councillor M Barr asked that by the next committee meeting confirmation would be given to what further work i.e., painting and carpeting would be carried out in January 2024.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council 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.

a. CHRISTMAS MARKET & LIGHTS SWITCH ON – 25th November 2023

RESOLVED to approve on block the quotations received from Fuse Performance Ltd £1160.00, Steve Hawker £650.00 and Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival Ltd £1100.00. Bay Media Lamp Post Banners - £1225.00. Pro Sound and Light Stage Hire £900.00. Carly Press £100.00.

b. TOWN COUNCIL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

To consider arrangements to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Town Council in April 2024:

RESOLVED to recommend to full council 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 of 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.

At this Juncture Councillor K. Wheatley and S. Pringle-Kosikowsky left the meeting

c. 300th ANNIVERSARY OF DANIEL DEFOE VISITING THE TOWN

In 1724 Daniel Defoe visited Wellington as part of his tour of Great Britain. Councillor Thorne was invited to speak. The Committee considered a number of suggestions, which included:

- A blue plaque which will serve as a historical marker to be installed in the town centre to commemorate the link between Wellington and Daniel Defoe.
- To ask if the Film Festival could show “Robinson Crusoe” film at the April 2024 festival.
- Engagement with the Schools – How will they mark 300th anniversary?

At this juncture Councillor M. Lithgow left the meeting. The Committee was now inquorate, therefore Agenda items 7c, 7d and 8 will be deferred to the next Town Centre Committee meeting to be held 14th November 2023.

The meeting ended at 6.55pm

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Councillor C Govier
Chair