

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON 10 OCTOBER 2023 AT 4.00pm

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

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

284 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Councillor M Barr had advised that he would be late joining the meeting.

285 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 August 2023.

286 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Govier declared an interest in item 11 as he is a Somerset Unitary Council Councillor and the building in question is owned by Somerset Council.

287 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public spoke in support of Agenda Item 6 suggesting it be linked with the anniversary of granting the Freedom of the Town to The Rifles Regiment.

288 LONGFORTH ROAD TOILET BLOCK UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that following the decision of the Council at its October meeting to demolish the toilet block the Project Plan and Risk Register was being revised. The Committee raised concerns about the costs being quoted for rebuilding the block and asked that the Town Clerk seek clarification from the Project Manager on the time needed to demolish the block and that they be provided with alternative options for replacing the block both modular and brick built. The Committee also asked for clarification on why the insurance claims had not been resolved as yet and what the timeframe was for doing so.

289 ARMED FORCES COVENANT

After some discussion the Committee **RESOLVED**

- (i) to recommend to the Town Council that the draft Armed Forces Covenant circulated with the agenda should be adopted with the following amendment subject to confirmation that the model covenant could be amended

‘3 The council looks forward to when war and preparing for war are things of the past and will support initiatives to achieve this, such as the United Nations disarmament commission.’

- (ii) That Councillor J Lloyd should be the Armed Forces Champion for the Council.

290 STAFFING PROPOSALS

The Town Clerk outlined for the committee the actions he was taking to move projects forward given the current absence of the Project Officer.

291 FLOODING RESPONSE

The Clerk reported that the Council needed to review its arrangements in relation to flood preparedness as the current arrangements were not sufficient. It was agreed that a small group of councillors would work with the Clerk to develop a plan to be looked at alongside a broader Town Council Emergency Plan.

It was also agreed that until the parameters of any County led review of the flooding were known there was little more that could be done to prepare for it.

292 EMERGENCY PLAN

The Town Clerk tabled a framework for the development of a Town Council Emergency Plan. It was agreed a small group of councillors would work with the Town Clerk to develop the plan further.

At this juncture Councillor M Barr joined the meeting

293 NALC COUNCIL OF THE YEAR AWARD

RESOLVED to recommend to the Town Council that in principle it should fund the travel costs and if needs be overnight accommodation costs for the Mayor and consort to attend the presentation event or any future event. On this occasion the Mayor is unable to attend so the Deputy Mayor and her partner will attend to represent the Town Council.

294 TOWN COUNCIL ACCOMODATION

The Town Clerk reported that he had received the Structural Survey report and that he would convene a Working Group of Councillors from the Policy and Resources Committee to review it and develop recommendations for next steps.

295 OUTCOMES OF COMMUNITY SURVEY

The outcomes of the survey were noted. It was considered that the response number was too small for it to be representative of the wider community.

296 COMMUNITY CONNECT CHAMPION UPDATE

A report was tabled at the meeting and was noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.30pm.

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Councillor Catherine Govier
Chairman