



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	Monday 4 December 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

28 November 2023

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE 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.

3. 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.

4. MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council and Planning meetings held on 6 November 2023 (copies attached).

5. 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

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

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

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor will provide an update on his activities since the last meeting.

8. 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.

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

To consider a report from the Town Clerk.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The following committees have vacancies that should be filled.

(i) Town Centre Committee – one vacancy.

(ii) Finance Committee – three vacancies.

11. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 November and relevant papers are attached for information and consideration. Councillor Lithgow will provide an update at the meeting. The Committee resolved to make the following recommendations:

- (i) To adopt the amended Treasury & Investment Policy
- (ii) To adopt the Debit Card User Agreement

12. TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 November are attached for information and consideration. Councillor Booth will provide an update at the meeting. The Committee resolved to make the following recommendations:

- (i) That the Produce Market should be included on one application including Town Council events subject to a satisfactory meeting with the organisers of the Produce Market on Wednesday 6th December to discuss possible issues of the market being moved to High Street. Councillors Lithgow and Wheatley have been delegated to attend this meeting.

13. ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 November along with relevant papers are attached for information and consideration. Councillor McGuffie will provide an update at the meeting. The Committee resolved to make the following recommendations:

- (i) That a charged service is offered to tenants to remove rubbish from their plots at a minimum amount of £25.00 for 2 compost bags of rubbish. Anything more to be inspected by a Council Officer and quoted accordingly. Tenants to pay up front. A day once a month to be allocated for the Community Warden to collect.
- (ii) In reference to Longforth Farm Allotments:
 - a. That the Town Council take ownership of the land from the developer
 - b. That as soon as possible the site is secured with stock proof fencing costs to be covered by the £10,000 already set aside for the Longforth Allotments
 - c. That the Council apply for S106 funding of £50,000 to cover set up costs for the allotments

14. ADDITIONAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 27 November are attached for information and Councillor C Govier will provide an update at the meeting. The Committee resolved to make the following recommendations:

- (i) that Healthmatic be commissioned to develop a comparative design and specification package for a modular building option based upon the preferred design/layout option selected above at a cost of £3,500 plus VAT – the output of which will be used by Ravenslade to prepare a feasibility Order of Cost Estimate considering ‘traditional’ and ‘modular’ options.
- (ii) in principle, the balance of costs for a rebuild on the Longforth Road site should be funded through a Public Works Loan Board Loan with a final decision on the amount to be borrowed to be made when costs are known.

15. ADDITIONAL FINANCE MEETING

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 27 November are attached for information. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and develop the draft budget, an updated copy is attached to the agenda.

The Committee resolved to recommend that, given Somerset Council’s decision not to fund free parking in the town on the three Saturdays leading up to Christmas as it has in the past, the Town Council should fund it at a cost of £3,750 plus VAT to be taken from the Town Centre budget line.

16. 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 17 on the agenda refers to matters which are commercially sensitive and confidential.

17. PURCHASE OF 28-30 FORE STREET

To consider the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee contained in the confidential minute of the meeting held on 27 November 2023 attached to the agenda along with the relevant paper.