

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON 12 DECEMBER 2023 AT 4.05PM

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

David Farrow – Town Clerk

One member of the press was in attendance.

393 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Councillor Lloyd.

394 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Extra Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 27 November 2023.

395 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

396 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

397 DEVOLUTION CONTINGENCY BUDGET (DCB)

Papers had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Town Clerk explained that work was still ongoing with Somerset Council Officers to determine what services or asserts may be transferred to the Town Council either in the coming financial year or the next. It would therefore not be possible to recommend a final DCB to the January Council meeting.

The Committee made the following observations:

- (i) Street Cleaning – that when the ID Verde contract ends in January 2025 the Council should consider taking on responsibility for some or all aspects of street cleaning in the town.
- (ii) CCTV – that if the Council is to be charged for CCTV provision in the town it should look to upgrade the system.
- (iii) Minor Road Maintenance Activities – that the Council should explore the proposed Highways Steward Model but also consider what elements could be delivered through the Community Warden.
- (iv) Parks and Green Spaces – when considering how to manage these to have discussions with the football and cricket clubs and Court Fields and Wellington schools to determine whether there were options for contracting/delivering services in a different way that would benefit all parties.

- (v) That additional staffing would be required as and when additional responsibilities were taken on.
- (vi) The Town Clerk was asked to draw up proposals for a post to promote Wellington.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Full Council:

- (i) That an amount of £5,400 should be included in the DCB to fund the provision of expert advice to the Town Council on heritage matters should the need arise.
- (ii) That the Town Council should take on responsibility for coordinating and managing the tours at Toneworks in 2024 recognising that they would continue to be led by members of the Somerset Council Heritage at Risk Team.
- (iii) That the Town Council should fund the application costs for Wellington Park's Green Flag at a cost of £430 and the town's Britain in Bloom entry at a cost of £300.

398 PURCHASE OF GREEN CORRIDOR LAND

A paper from Councillor McGuffie was circulated in advance of the meeting. Councillor McGuffie raised concerns regarding the financial liabilities associated with the Crown Estate Land in particular in relation to the bridge/culvert and weir at the bottom of Linden Drive. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should seek to commission a survey of the bridge/culvert.

399 TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to pass a resolution having been duly proposed and seconded under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted under the following agenda items there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:

Reason: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

400 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the confidential minutes of the Extra Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 27 November 2023.

401 COMMISSIONING OF SPECIALIST HR SUPPORT FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that Worknest be appointed as the Councils HR advisory service on a three year basis.

402 PURCHASE OF 28-30 FORE STREET

RESOLVED to accept the overage condition of 25% if the building is sold within 10 years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.05pm.

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Councillor Catherine Govier
Chairman