

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6.00pm

**Present:** Councillors C Booth (Chair), M Barr, C Govier, M Lithgow, J Lloyd, K Wheatley.  
Co-Opted Member S. Pringle-Kosikowsky

**In Attendance:** Councillors A Govier, M McGuffie and J Thorne  
Alice Kendall – Deputy Clerk  
1 member of the press

As the Chair of the previous meeting, Councillor Lithgow opened the meeting, and it was agreed that Councillor Booth should chair the meeting as the elected Chairman was not present.

#### **325 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from co-opted member Zoe Old.

#### **326 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest.

#### **327 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Centre Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

#### **328 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public were in attendance.

Councillor McGuffie reported that the tree planting strategy would be discussed at the Environment and Heritage committee the following day. He explained that one of the options to be explored is installing trees in pots in the town. It was agreed that information on this should be presented to this committee via formal paper for consideration at the next meeting.

#### **329 POP UP SHOP**

The Deputy Clerk circulated a report and the current administration documents with proposed amendments for review. She further reported that the local RBL group had requested that they receive two weeks for free rather than be limited to one as per the updated booking policy.

**RESOLVED** to allow only one free week to the RBL. Councillors agreed it is an important cause but believe the policy should apply to all users of the shop regardless of the organisation.

**RESOLVED** that the updated key hand over process, associated forms and terms and conditions (handbook) be accepted as presented.

The Deputy Clerk went on to give an update on the plan to refresh the shop. Councillor Wheatley had met with an air conditioning engineer who had provided a quotation to remove the large overhead unit and service the smaller wall mounted unit.

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £445 to carry out works on the air conditioning units.

### **330 NORTH STREET CAR PARK**

Councillor K Wheatley raised concerns over the number of pedestrians that walk from Wellington Football Club up through North Street Car Park to the entrance at Fore Street. Town Centre Committee to discuss how the public can be kept safe, by putting a footpath in place and how to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the car park. A location plan and images were circulated with the agenda.

A lengthy discussion raised several issues and ideas including what could be done to increase safety for residents in the new housing development.

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillors Lithgow and Wheatly to request a meeting with officers from the car park department and Somerset Council to discuss possible options and report back to the next meeting.

It was further **agreed** to follow up a possible parking review by the Highways Department as previously discussed.

### **331 EVENTS 2023/2024/2025**

#### **a. CHRISTMAS MARKET & LIGHTS SWITCH ON – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

A report was circulated with the agenda detailing the current expenditure to date and updated budget report.

**RESOLVED** to approve en bloc quotations and invoices received as detailed on the attached report.

#### **b. REMEMBRANCE 2023**

Remembrance Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – to note the quotation from Carly Press in the sum of £257.00 plus VAT for 500 copies of the Order of Service.

**Agreed** to note the cost of the Order of Service.

#### **c. 2024 - 300<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF DANIEL DEFOE VISITING THE TOWN**

In 1724 Daniel Defoe visited Wellington as part of his tour of Great Britain. Councillor Thorne asked that the committee consider how this anniversary could be marked. Suggestions were put forward as follows:

- 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 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary?

After some discussion, it was proposed and duly seconded that this matter should not be taken forward in any way. There were three votes in favour and three votes against. The Chairman made a casting vote against, and the motion was not carried.

It was then proposed and duly seconded that the option of a blue plaque be explored, and that more information be brought back to the next meeting. There were three votes in favour and three votes against. The Chairman made a casting vote in favour, the motion was carried, and it was so **RESOLVED**.

It was further **agreed** that Councillor Wheatley puts the idea of showing Robinson Crusoe to the Film Festival and report back to the next meeting and that Councillor Officers should send a simple communication to Schools to see if they will mark the occasion and if so, how.

**d. 2025 – 810<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN BEING GRANTED ITS ROYAL CHARTER**

The Town was granted its Royal Charter in 1215. Councillor Thorne asked that the committee to consider how this anniversary should be marked.

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that this anniversary should not be marked. However, Councillors would like to pursue the creation of 'Wellington Day' to coincide with the date of the seal of the Charter. Councillor Pringle-Kosikowsky was asked if he can find this information with his work connection at the Heritage Trust. If an exact date cannot be found, it was suggested to use Magna Carta day as this could co-inside with the existing Street Fair in June.

At this juncture, Councillor Thorne gave his apologies and left the meeting.

**332 FUTURE ROAD CLOSURES FOR EVENTS**

Full Council referred this back to the Committee for further discussion on how one Temporary Traffic Order Regulation Order can cover several events from 1<sup>st</sup> April for an 18-month period at a cost of £1,375.00. The Committee considered including both Town Council events and the Wellington Produce Market monthly markets. The market dates for 2024 were circulated prior to meeting.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the Produce Market be included on one application including Town Council events subject to a satisfactory meeting with the organisers of the Produce Market to discuss possible issues of the Market being moved to High Street. Councillors Lithgow and Wheatley were delegated to attend the meeting. It was noted that the application would have to be submitted in January so there was a short time frame to complete this.

**333 THE EDGE – DECEMBER/JANUARY 2024 EDITION**

**RESOLVED** to publish a half page Christmas and New Year message in the December/January edition of the Edge at a cost of £50.

**334 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at United Reformed Church Hall, Fore Street, Wellington**

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm.

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