

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 16th January 2024 at 6.00pm

Present: Councillors: C Booth (Chair), M Barr, C Govier, J Lloyd, K Wheatley.
Co-opted Member: M Vincent

In Attendance: ^[OBJ] Councillors: J Cole, A Govier, M McGuffie and J Thorne
Annette Kirk – Assets & Events Officer
1 member of the press

431 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor C Booth was elected to Chair meetings on 16th January 2024 and 12th March 2024.

432 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors M Lithgow and S Pringle-Kosikowsky. Co-opted members Zoe Old and S Davis.

433 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Thorne declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 as there was a payment listed to his employer - Tindle Newspapers.

434 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Centre Committee meeting held on 14th November 2023.

435 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance.

Councillor McGuffie reported that he would be presenting a proposal for Tree Planters within the Town Centre and trees in Car Park Spaces at the Environment and Heritage committee the following day.

Councillor McGuffie stated that he did not support the proposed mural for Tonedale Bridge commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

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

436 NORTH STREETCAR PARK

Councillor K Wheatley updated the Committee following the meeting with Somerset Council on 15 December 2023. Planned works proposed by Somerset Council was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. After much discussion further concerns were raised. It was **AGREED** that further work was needed to put in further preventative measures to stop vehicles exiting the car park onto Fore Street via the car park entrance. Councillor K Wheatley and the Assets and Events Office to contact Somerset Council and to report back at the next meeting including costs.

437 MONUMENT PLANTER

Somerset Council have been storing the planter on behalf of the Town Council since 1992. The committee discussed at length whether to retain the planter and if so where it could be located - suggestions were the United Reformed Church or on Tonedale Christmas Tree Pit.

RESOLVED to retain the planter. The Assets & Events Officer to obtain further details on costs to maintain, plant and to install.

At this juncture, Councillor A Govier left the meeting.

438 LONGFORTH ROAD TOILETS - DEFIBRILLATOR

The Committee discussed at length locations for the defibrillator. It was **AGREED** that the Kings Arms could be a suitable location but asked if the Assets & Events Officer could obtain a map from Heartstart showing where all the current defibrillators are located in the town before any final decision is made.

439 EVENTS

a. STALL CHARGES

RESOLVED to approve the increased stall charges for Traders, and administration charges for all stall holders. Community Groups, Schools and Charities will pay a deposit fee, which will be refunded if they attend the event. To also approve the new clauses under the Terms and Conditions heading on the application form.

b. CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON - 25TH NOVEMBER 2023

RESOLVED to make a £300.00 donation to the Rotary Club of Wellington for it to donate £100 to each of their three chosen charities in appreciation of the work put in by Chris Then-Bergh and partner in Santa's Grotto.

c. CHRISTMAS MARKET & LIGHTS SWITCH ON – 30TH NOVEMBER 2024 **RESOLVED**

- To take on the administration and running of the market as well as the Switch on Event.
- To include a children's carousel ride.
- To recommend to Full Council to approve an event budget of £10,000 to include free parking on the day of the event. With a separate budget line of £5,000 for the three Saturdays leading up to Christmas. 7th, 14th, and 21st December. Final figure to be confirmed by Somerset Council.

d. 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY – Thursday 6th June 2024

The Committee discussed at length on how the Town Council can mark this historic event. Activities to include:

1st June 2024 – Street Fair

6th June 2024 – 80th D-Day Anniversary

Commemorative Flag

Shop Window Competition

School Competition

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that an overall budget of £15,000 be set up for the Annual Street Fair and the programme of events to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day between 1st – 8th June 2024.

It was **AGREED** that Councillors C Govier, J Lloyd, and C Booth would make up a working group with Council officers to deliver the activities.

440 TOWN COUNCIL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

RESOLVED to approve the quotation from Somerset Film in the sum of £240.00 plus VAT to do half a day's worth of editing to create an archive film with the opening titles to mark the 50th anniversary and in tribute to the late Richard Fox.

To note the following:

- Pop Up Shop is booked from 1st to 6th April 2024.
- The Civic Service will be held on Sunday 14th April 2024 at St. Johns Church. Time to be confirmed. Reception to be held in the Church Hall. Councillors and Town Clerks that have served during the 50 years to be invited. The Mayor to confirm the invitation list.

At this juncture, Councillor Lloyd gave her apologies and left the meeting.

441 2024 – 300th ANNIVERSARY OF DANIEL DEFOE VISITING THE TOWN

Blue Plaque – Councillor J Thorne suggested the blue plaque is hung on the wall in Monmouth Gardens.

It was **AGREED** in principle to use Monmouth Gardens back wall as a place to hang the blue plaque subject to receiving Historic England's scheme rules and confirmation of any fees and obtaining landowner's permission.

442 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 12th March 2024 at United Reformed Church Hall, Fore Street, Wellington.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

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