

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 5 FEBRUARY 2024**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Barr (Mayor)  
Councillors C Booth, K Canham, J Cole, A Govier, C Govier, R Henley, J Lloyd, M McGuffie, S Pringle-Kosikowsky and J Thorne.

**In attendance:** David Farrow – Town Clerk  
Three members of the public  
One member of the press

**473 TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

**474 MINUTES SILENCE**

The Council held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for former Councillor Chris Hindley who passed away recently. Chris Hindley was a Town Councillor from 2003-2011 and served as the Mayor of Taunton Deane in 2006/2007.

**475 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN**

Apologies were received from Councillors K Wheatley, Z Barr, and M Lithgow

**476 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor A Govier declared an interest in agenda item 8 as a member of Somerset Council.

**477 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the additional Town Council meeting held on 31 January.

**478 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the felling of trees at Wellington Rugby Club. Whilst she understood it was part of the planning process she asked where the replacement trees were being planted and what type of trees would be planted.

The Town Clerk advised that this was a matter between the club and Somerset Council's Planning Department which would be responsible for ensuring that any planning conditions were met. He suggested she contact Somerset Council's Planning Department to seek advice on her questions.

**479 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM**

The report from Sergeant Jon O'Connor had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

Councillor Pringle-Kosikowsky asked what advice he would give to residents concerned about possible reductions in policing numbers. Sergeant O'Connor said that crime prevention was key and that he would advise householders to make sure that their homes were secure.

## WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 5 FEBRUARY 2024

### 480 THERAPEUTIC EDUCATION PRESENTATION

A presentation was given by Daniel Moncrieff, Head of Service (Fostering) and Strategic Manager - Strategic Partner Development with Somerset Council regarding its plans for the former Adult Learning Centre on Springfield Road. A copy of the presentation will be circulated to councillors when received.

Councillors welcomed the proposals for how the centre was to be used and Councillor Cole asked how it could support the delivery of the project. Mr Moncrieff said that they were still at the initial stages of developing plans so it was too early to say but that he would be happy to discuss how the Town Council could support the project when plans were more developed.

Councillor A Govier raised the issue of needing to engage with residents of Springfield Road who were using the vacant site as a car park and Mr Moncrieff advised that he hoped they would be able to find a satisfactory solution and more generally that there would be engagement with local residents about the centre and how it was going to be used when plans were further developed.

### 481 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted.

### 482 SOMERSET COUNCIL/LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

It was noted that the next LCN meeting was taking place the following night.

Councillor C Govier expressed the hope that progress could be made in setting up smaller working/focus groups to look at specific topics.

Councillor A Govier reported that Somerset Council had been told that the Government had not approved its request to increase Council Tax by 10% for 2024/5. It was therefore likely that a Section 114 Notice would be issued.

### 483 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

Councillors thanked the Clerk for expediting the setting up of the temporary banking hub in 30 Fore Street.

### 484 FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting on 16 January had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the updated Asset Register be accepted following the addition of the life ring installed at the Basins.

### 485 GRANT APPLICATION

**Wellington Twinning Association** – The organisation had applied for a £2,711 contribution towards the cost of hosting visiting representatives from Wellington's three twinned towns of Torres Vedras, Immenstadt, and Lillebonne, who will be invited to attend the Town Council's 50th Anniversary Civic Service.

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 5 FEBRUARY 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £2,711. The grant will be allocated from the Promotion of Wellington budget.

**486 TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2024 were noted.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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.

**487 ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 January were noted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will take responsibility for the planting and maintenance of the flower beds at Lancer Court subject to reaching agreement with the landowner.

**488 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor J Coles be elected to the Finance Committee

Noted that there remained one vacancy on each of the Finance and Town Centre Committees.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

**STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<p><b>Members of Somerset Council:</b>  Councillor Andrew Govier  Councillor Marcus Barr  Councillor Ross Henley</p> <p><b>Director of the Somerset Association of Local Councils</b>  Councillor Janet Lloyd</p>
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Mayor  
Councillor Marcus Barr .....

Initial .....