

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 21 FEBRUARY 2024

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Barr (Mayor)
Councillors C Booth, K Canham, A Govier, C Govier, J Lloyd, M McGuffie, J Thorne and K Wheatley.

In attendance: David Farrow – Town Clerk
One members of the press
Fifteen members of the public

511 TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

512 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Councillors Z Barr and J Cole and were duly noted.

513 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in addition to the standing declarations.

514 MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5 February 2024 will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

515 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Seven members of the public spoke with all raising concerns in relation to the planning applications 43/24/0009 & 43/24/0010/LB being considered under agenda item 6(a).

516 PLANNING

a. Case Refs: 43/24/0009 & e/24/0010/LB

RESOLVED to recommend that these applications be refused on the basis that there were insufficient changes to the plans to address the concerns raised by the Council when it last considered them in March 2023. In addition, the Council was concerned about the lack of social housing in the applications and noted the comments of the Somerset Council Nutrient Neutrality Officer which stated that the ‘proposed development will increase phosphate loading into the catchment and subsequently the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site, as a result phosphate mitigation will be required so that the proposed development is phosphate neutral in perpetuity’ and that they would be reviewing and commenting on the Nutrient Neutrality Assessment submitted by the developer. It was also noted that Highways has yet to conduct an assessment and considers that given the significant concerns in relation to access to the site no decision should be made until that assessment is completed.

517 PLANTING SCHEME FOR WELLINGTON PARK AND TOWN CENTRE

A paper was tabled at the meeting. After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED**

- (i) Wellington Park - That Officers are given delegated authority to approve spending up to £31,000 for the provision of plants and associated maintenance in Wellington Park

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having noted that this exceeds the budget of £20,000 with approx. £11,000 being drawn down from the general fund.

- (ii) Town Centre Hanging Baskets - That Officers are delegated to approve J Hewitt Maintenance Services being appointed for the installation, watering and deadheading of the annual hanging baskets and troughs, with plants being sourced from the Somerset Council nursery with costs totalling £7,232.
- (iii) Town Centre Beds and Tubs - That Officers are given delegated authority to spend up to £1,500 on plants for the Town Centre Beds & Tubs to allow time for the plants to mature before the summer season as well as any additional plants that may be needed given the context of the notes in that table. In the meantime, Officers will carry out more costing work and seek clarification from Somerset Council on the maintenance cost lines. Councillors are to note that this will be re-presented to Council for final sign off as the final costing will exceed that of the budget set.

518 ELECTION POLL CARDS

RESOLVED to note and ratify the decision taken following an email discussion to issue Poll Cards for the election to fill the vacancy in the North Ward with the additional cost being approx. £3,480.

519 CREATION OF RICHARD FOX AWARD

RESOLVED as follows:

- (i) That the Town Council should create a new award to honour the late Richard Fox;
- (ii) That the decision on who should receive the award should be taken by the Mayor at the end of their years term of office and be awarded to someone who they consider has made a significant contribution to the community during their term of office;
- (iii) That the award should be in the form of a perpetual shield to be engraved with the names of those to whom it has been awarded and held at the Council offices with the individual also receiving a framed certificate for them to keep.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier
 Councillor Marcus Barr
 Councillor Ross Henley

Director of the Somerset Association of Local Councils

Councillor Janet Lloyd

Mayor
 Councillor Marcus Barr