

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND
HERITAGE COMMITTEE HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON
WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024 AT 4.00 PM**

Present: Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)
Councillors C Booth, C Govier, M Lithgow and K Wheatley

In attendance: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
Stephen Tate -Climate Change Project Officer
One member of the press
Melissa Taylor, Climate Change Officer, Glastonbury Town Council (via video link) for agenda item 5.
Amy Kemmish, Project Manager, Heritage at Risk, Somerset Council for agenda item 6.
Steve Saunders, Footpath Volunteer Coordinator for agenda item 7.
Paul Coles representing KS Coles for agenda item 8.
One member of the public.

559 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

560 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

561 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024.

562 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

563 GLASTONBURY CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

Melissa Taylor, Climate Officer Glastonbury Town Council gave a presentation on the work she is doing in Glastonbury to build climate adaptation and resilience in the town. A copy of her presentation will be circulated to committee members.

564 HERITAGE UPDATE

The report from Amy Kemmish had been circulated prior to the meeting.

She reported that Jo O'Hara had now left the full time employment of Somerset Council but was still working one day a week to finalise the revised Levelling Up bid paperwork for Tonedale Mill and Toneworks.

Councillor Wheatley asked when information in relation to the bid would be shared more widely and whether there would be an opportunity to contribute to shaping the bid.

Ms Kemmish said that the bid general scope was as previously submitted but that it was having to be reshaped because of increasing costs and also

changes to the buildings structure. The Town Clerk said he would discuss a timetable for agreeing how information could be shared with Ms Kemmish outside of the meeting. Ms Kemmish reported that the owner of Tonedale Mill appeared to be willing to comply with the requirements of the Notice that had been served.

Councillor Lithgow asked what progress was being made on progressing enforcement action in relation to the former Teare's Newsagent shop. Ms Kemmish said that this was with the Councils Enforcement Team.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that it was his understanding that from 1 April 2024 the Heritage at Risk Team funding would be coming from the Levelling Up Bid funding and therefore work outside of that project would no longer be within their remit. It would be for the Town Council to follow up enforcement action with Somerset Council. Ms Kemmish confirmed that this was the case.

Ms Kemish left at this juncture.

565 FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders updated the Committee on the work of the footpath volunteers. He said that the focus had been on clearing urban paths of fallen leaves and supporting the Community warden with this work particularly along the path running behind Court Fields School.

He also reported that he would be meeting with John Melrose the area footpath coordinator from Somerset Council and looking to connect with footpath volunteers in neighbouring parishes.

566 GREEN CORRIDOPR ADVISORY BOARD

The notes of the meeting held on the 10 January 2024 had been circulated in advance of the meeting along with an explanatory note from Councillor McGuffie.

Paul Coles from KS Coles Ltd explained to the Committee their proposal to convert some land around Trinity farm into a Local Nature Reserve. The land links with Hilly head by the cemetery through to the Swains Lane Nature Reserve and would be used to develop Biodiversity Net Gain credits and for phosphate mitigation. The family's intention is that the land would be a Nature Reserve in perpetuity. The Town Clerk reported that he was in discussion with Somerset Council about how to designate the land as a Nature Reserve.

The Committee welcomed the proposal and thanked Mr Coles for the presentation.

- (i) It was agreed that it was important that the Green Corridor Management Plan should be subject to further consultation utilising the Pop-Up Shop and in events planned for the last week of April. It

was agreed not to make any recommendations to the Full Council at this stage.

- (ii) It was agreed that further consideration was required in relation to the potential relocation of one of the Wellingtonia trees in Linden Meadow.

567 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

The Town Clerk and Climate Change Officer reported on the progress made to date in developing an action plan to deliver the strategy.

It was **RESOLVED** to commission support from the Centre of Sustainable Energy at a cost of £1,140 to establish a baseline for carbon emissions in the town and begin to develop an action plan.

568 HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY PROJECT

It was **RESOLVED** not to participate in this project.

569 INSTALLATION OF DROPPED KERBS – DARK PATH/WELLESLEY PARK

It was **RESOLVED** not to progress the installation of dropped kerbs given the proximity of dropped driveway access close to the footpath entrances.

570 BRIDGE BETWEEN WEAVERS REACH AND FOX'S FIELD

The Town Clerk reported that he had received the survey shortly before the meeting started and that he would circulate to committee members. He also reported that the surveyor had given informal advice in relation to the bridge and culvert at the bottom of Linden Drive which he would also circulate.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.00 pm

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Councillor M McGuffie
Chairman