

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 8 APRIL 2024

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 8 APRIL 2024 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Barr (Chair),
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, C Govier, R Henley, M Lithgow, J Lloyd, M McGuffie, S Mercer and J Thorne

IN ATTENDANCE: Alice Kendall (Deputy Clerk)
S. Fox (Planning Officer, Somerset Council)
One member of the press
Five members of the public

576 TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

577 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Councillors Z Barr, K Canham, A Govier and K Wheatley.

578 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cole declared a personal interest in item 18 (monument planter) as he knows the director of the firm who had provided the quotation.

Councillor C Govier declared a personal interest in item 19 (CAS accommodation) as an employee of the organisation.

Councillor M Lithgow declared a personal interest in item 19 (CAS accommodation) as a volunteer with the organisation.

579 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Planning and Full Council meetings held on 4 March.

580 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public spoke about the upcoming likely development near Popes Lane and expressed concern to the loss of habitat and 'green wedge'. She reported to Councillors that she hoped a solution could be designed to ensure a green corridor could be maintained.

581 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. He was pleased that the figures had remained exactly the same as the same period in 2023 as it was predicted there would be an increase due to Easter falling in March this year. He reiterated the importance of the CCTV provision and supported any upgrades that could be made (item to be discussed later in the agenda).

Councillor Thorne asked about the reporting of a specific incident as he was once again disappointed in the communications relating to it. Sgt O'Connor reported that they had given as much information as they had.

582 STATION DEVELOPMENT

Simon Fox, Major Projects Officer (Planning) Somerset Council joined the meeting for this item and a paper was circulated with the agenda for consideration. After some discussion, it was resolved that the Council:

1. Is prepared to work with/take the lead on the development of the Station Square/mobility hub working with Somerset Council Planning Officers and West of England Developments to develop a specification for the design and to use the budget set aside for the station to support the delivery of the specification.
2. Is prepared to have ownership of the Station Square/mobility hub transferred to them and take responsibility for the future management, maintenance and development of the Square.
3. Is prepared to take on the ownership, management and maintenance of green spaces on the development with costs of doing so either to be covered by Precept income or a management fee charged to residents/business on the development.
4. Is prepared to enter into discussions with the landowner to explore the possibility of the ownership of the remainder of the ecological field being transferred to them.
5. That a Working Group of four Councillors be formed to take this work forward and develop proposals for the Town Council to consider. Membership will comprise of Councillors Henley, Lithgow, McGuffie and Thorne.

571 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor advised that he had circulated a report the previous week to all Councillors by e-mail. He reported that he particularly enjoyed attending the Legal Service at Wells Cathedral.

583 SOMERSET COUNCIL/LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

Councillor C Govier did not have anything to report as the next LCN meeting was scheduled for 18th April.

Councillor Lloyd reported that the Highways working group had been well attended, especially by Somerset Council Officers from the department. An update on the steward scheme was given and it was explained that it will be amended slightly with a 'Parish Pricelist' being published for services for Councils to purchase in their area. A schedule of works will be published in June.

Councillor Barr reported that he had attended a tenants association meeting and was pleased to hear that some roofing works had been completed as well as funding being secured to update kitchens and windows.

Councillor Henley reported that he was pleased with the set up of the Highways Working Group from the LCN. He had also chaired a working group meeting to discuss the process of planning and licensing to align the work of the four former District Councils with changes being proposed the Annual Meeting in May.

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 8 APRIL 2024

584 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON EXTERNAL BODIES

- a. The Metro Board – Councillor M Barr

The Mayor reported that a meeting had been held at the end of March, but most updates had been covered in previous items on this and the Planning agenda.

Councillor Lithgow asked for an update on funding from HS2 and questioned if it would be jeopardised should there be a change in Government. It was **RESOLVED** to write to Rebecca Pow, MP for clarification.

585 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

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

586 FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting on 12 March had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

572 TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 March were circulated with the agenda and noted.

- a. **TONEDALE BRIDGE**

Having reviewed the quotations to clean the bridge and remove the mural, it was **RESOLVED** to not go ahead with this work but to review the situation again after six months.

573 ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 13 March were circulated with the agenda and noted. Councillor McGuffie gave further details of The Big Green Week with various events taking place with Transition Town Wellington and the Community Farm.

Councillor Thorne queried the location of Toneworks in relation the Council's boundary (minute number 564). The Deputy Clerk will provide information from the Parish Online System.

574 CCTV SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

A paper was circulated with the agenda for consideration, including details of a three year Service Level Agreement with Somerset Council for the provision of a monitored CCTV service. Some Councillors who had attended a specific meeting previously, were not clear on the total costs, it was therefore **RESOLVED** to give delegated authority to the Policy and Resources Committee to approve the agreement subject the costs being confirmed as no more than £16,800 in year one.

It was further **RESOLVED** the fund the upgrade of the four remaining cameras from the CIL reserve, with Somerset Council providing the funding for two.

At this juncture, Councillor Henley left the meeting.

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 8 APRIL 2024

575 DEVOLUTION WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED to create a Devolution Working Group to work with the Town Clerk and Council staff to prepare for the devolution of assets and services from Somerset Council in 2024/5 and 2025/6. Draft terms of reference will be considered by the group at it's first meeting. Membership will be Councillors J Cole, C Govier and J Lloyd.

576 LONGFORTH ROAD TOILETS – SECURITY FENCING

RESOLVED to approve expenditure of up to £750 from the Capital Projects reserve for Heras/security fencing for the Longforth Road toilet site.

587 MONUMENT PLANTER

A paper was circulated with information and details of works required. It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of £575 for the modifications required but the detail of the location and further costings for planting and maintenance etc would be referred back to the Town Centre Committee. Councillors were asked to e-mail the officers if they had any ideas for a proposed location.

588 CITIZENS ADVICE SOMERSET (CAS) ACCOMMODATION

A paper with a draft Tenancy at Will agreement was circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED** to accept and adopt the agreement as presented but it was confirmed that the rental amount will not be demanded thus enabling CAS to use the space free of charge. Also, that the rooms should be redecorated by the Community Warden.

589 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting. The reason for this is that the following item refers to matters which relate to an individual.

590 COUNCIL EQUIPMENT UPDATE

The contents of this minute are confidential.

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

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Mayor
Councillor Marcus Barr