

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 3 JUNE 2024 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors J Cole, C Govier, A Govier, M Lithgow, M McGuffie, S Pringle-Kosikowsky, J Thorne and K Wheatley

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
Alice Kendall (Deputy Clerk)
One member of the press
Three members of the public

16 TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

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

Apologies were received from Councillors C Booth, K Canham and S Mercer.

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Govier declared a personal interest in item 7 (School Place Planning) as a Somerset Councillor.

19 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held 1 May 2024.

20 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Two members of the public wished to speak; the first presented information on a right to grow scheme being implemented elsewhere in the Country. The Clerk has received the information by e-mail and will present it to the Environment Committee. The second reported that he feels that the Longforth Road Toilets should not be rebuilt given the likely cost and expressed views on how this matter relates to other issues (relating to the Council and otherwise).

21 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 gave an update on a recent incident and that the information was being processed accordingly. He re-iterated the importance of being vigilant of courier fraud schemes which seem to be prevalent at the moment. The Mayor thanked him for his attendance at the meeting and at the Street Fair the previous weekend.

22 SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING IN WELLINGTON

Phil Curd, Head of Education Places, Somerset Council gave a presentation on the projected need for school places in Wellington in light of recent and proposed developments.

Councillors asked a number of questions; the overall outcome of which being that there are sufficient school places for the expected developments that are expected to come to fruition.

23 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor had circulated a report by e-mail just prior to the meeting.

Councillor Lithgow asked why there was no information in the Annual Report of the previous Mayor on the fundraising they had carried out. He would like to know the amount raised and

amounts distributed to charity. Councillor Lithgow further thanked Councillor Barr for his fundraising activities.

The Mayor went on to thank the Staff and Councillors who worked at the Street Fair which was held the previous weekend. She was pleased to report the footfall counter figures showed 3,000 people had visited (not including those without smartphones). Feedback so far had been overwhelmingly positive. She reminded those present that the beacon lighting to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day will be taking place in Wellington Park on the evening of Thursday 6th June.

24 SOMERSET COUNCIL/LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

Councillor C Govier did not have anything to report as the next LCN meeting is scheduled for July but it is understood that LCN Co-Ordinator roles are soon to be appointed.

Councillor A Govier reported that the Annual Meeting was held recently and Councillors were appointed to roles as required. It is still, unfortunately, expected that a Section 114 notice will be issued later in the year.

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

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. He echoed the comments by the Mayor, thanking the staff their work at the Street Fair. It was reported that most the officers work at present relates to devolution from Somerset Council and that a report will be presented to the Policy and Finance Committee meeting next week. An interesting meeting was had regarding the proposed Station Square and Councillors were reminded of the visioning session planned for 12th June. Lastly, it was reported that no election had been requested by 10 or more parishioners for the Rockwell Green vacancy and so there would be a co-option process at the July meeting.

26 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting on 13 May had been circulated with the agenda and were noted after agreeing amendments that were required (heading needs updating, item 33 should include a deadline of 31st July and items 36 and 37 should include summaries of the decisions made).

27 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 May were circulated with the agenda and noted.

28 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 20 May were circulated with the agenda and noted. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that the Council supports in principle the proposal to support the holding of a Together Event in Wellington organised by Somerset Diverse Communities and that Councillor C Govier act as the councillor link with the project along with the Town Clerk.

29 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 May were circulated with the agenda and noted.

Councillor J Cole raised two queries:

- He believes that the funding approved to the Community Farm should have been administered through the grant policy and appropriate process.
- It was noted that the Committee had exceeded the £15,000 per year spending cap as set in the Terms of Reference and that items 74 and 75 would need further ratification.

RESOLVED to ratify the spending detailed in minute 74 (£4,000 for required play area repairs).

RESOLVED to ratify the spending detailed in minute 75 (£1,400 for skips at the Basins Allotments).

A wider discussion took place on the cumulative spending cap of £15,000 per year that was agreed for each committee at the Annual Meeting in May. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk reported that an item would be placed on the agenda for the upcoming Policy & Finance Committee meeting.

30 THE BASINS CAUSEWAY

RESOLVED to accept the quote of £1,291.20 for essential repair works to the Causeway.

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 8.35pm

Mayor

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