

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 15 JULY 2024 AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor C. Govier (Chair),
Councillors C Booth (from item 170), A Govier, M Lithgow, J Lloyd and M McGuffie

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow – Town Clerk
One member of the press
Four members of the public for The Dolphin Inn agenda item.
One member of the public from item 170

166 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor J Cole.

167 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

168 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

169 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on the 20 May 2024.

In the absence of Polly Matthews it was agreed to bring agenda item 6 forward.

170 THE DOLPHIN INN

The owners of The Dolphin Inn and Representatives of GTH presented proposed plans for the future use of the building. The first floor will be used as office space with the ground floor offering community space on a model similar to The Waffle in Axminster. It was further proposed that two houses be built in the rear garden with access off Beech Grove.

Councillors welcomed the idea of a community space in that part of town and the Town Clerk offered to arrange a meeting with him and the Councils Community Officer to discuss how it could link in with the work being done in relation to the Kings Arms.

171 CRADLE TO CAREER MODEL OF WORKING

Councillor A Govier declared a personal interest as an employee of Court Fields School.

Polly Matthews was unable to attend the meeting. The Town Clerk briefed the committee on the concept of Cradle to Career model of working. The Committee welcomed and supported the idea in principle but asked that Mrs Matthews attend a future meeting to answer any questions. Councillor Lloyd suggested that the Town Clerk approach the Somerset Association of Local Councils to see if funding could be available from them to support the work.

172 BUDGET REPORT

The budget report circulated in advance of the meeting was noted.

173 AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN WELLINGTON

The Chair reported on a meeting that she and the Town Clerk had had with officers from Somerset Council and the work being done as a result of that in relation to affordable housing in the town. Somerset Council officers were collating information in relation to the demand for affordable housing in the town and the intention is that once that is known to develop a strategy for addressing it. It was noted that Somerset Council's view was that there were suitable amounts of affordable housing in the developments around the edges of the town but less so in the town centre.

174 WORK PLAN 2024/5 UPDATES

A draft Committee Work Plan had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee welcomed the approach and suggested some improvements. The Town Clerk asked that any further suggestions for change be sent to him so that he could finalise the draft and present it to the Committee for adoption at its next meeting.

The Town Clerk provided updates on the following items

- (i) **Developing a Community Development Plan**
The Area Champion for Connect Somerset was working on this and the Cradle to Career work would feed into this.
- (ii) **Developing a Children and Young People's Plan**
A draft action plan was circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted.
- (iii) **Developing of a Community Engagement Plan**
This was in hand as set out in the draft Work Plan.
- (iv) **Kings Arms Community Hub Project**
Work was ongoing with a wide range of partners to determine how the hub could be used. The Town Clerk reported that he was considering bringing in additional expertise to manage the building programme that would be required.
- (v) **Council Offices**
The Town Clerk reported that a programme of work to address urgent issues identified through the survey was being developed.

A paper relating to external signage and decoration proposals had been circulated prior to the meeting. After some discussions the Committee **RESOLVED**

- (a) To agree the crest and wording for above the entrance
- (b) To adopt the black and white lettering for the sign above the window set out in option 2 in the paper
- (c) To adopt the stainless steel plaque in Option 1 in the paper and asked that the Town Clerk review opening times before ordering. The Committee's view was that the office should be open longer.
- (d) Agreed the refurbishment of the noticeboard with the addition that a new Wellington Town Council sign should be included at the top of the board, incorporating the crest.
- (e) That further work be undertaken to ensure that the red colour for the doors was acceptable from a Listed Building consent perspective.

(f) That further work be done in relation to installing a flagpole on the front of the building.

(vi) Twinning

Work had not commenced on this item. It was agreed that a concern was lack of youth engagement in the process with the exception of the Majorettes.

(vii) Emergency Plan Implementation (when approved by Council)

Work had started on drafting an Emergency Plan and it was noted that this was need prior to the winter.

(viii) To consider the Council's role in early help/intervention in light of Somerset Council's ongoing financial situation.

The Town Clerk reported that he was meeting Richard Selwyn and Sara Skirton from Somerset Council on the 17 July to discuss what Somerset Councils plans were for the future delivery of early help in the town. He was concerned that the financial challenges facing Somerset Council may result in a dilution of the service and if that was the case he would want to develop proposals for how the Town Council could plug that gap. He was also meeting the Town Clerks of Bridgwater and Frome to discuss the issue and what their approach was going to be.

(ix) Wellington Together Event

The Town Clerk reported that he had been advised that the 26 October 2024 had been identified as a potential date and Court Fields School was the proposed venue. Both subject to confirmation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

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Councillor C Govier - Chair