

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 1 JULY 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),  
Councillors M Barr, J Cole, S Fox (from 107), C Govier, A Govier, R Henley,  
M Lithgow, M McGuffie, S Mercer, S Pringle-Kosikowsky and J Thorne

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

**127 TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

**128 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN**

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

**129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors J Cole and S Pringle-Kosikowsky declared an interest in agenda item 17 (Councillor allowances)

**130 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held 3 June 2024.

**131 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Two members of the public wished to speak; the first presented thanks to the Council's Environment Committee for reviewing the information on the Right to Grow initiative. They also gave thanks for recent works carried out by the Council's Community Warden. All Councillors were invited to the upcoming Community Open Days at Longacre (27<sup>th</sup> July) and Fox's Field (17<sup>th</sup> August).

The second gave some additional information on agenda item 18 (access to recreation ground).

**132 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM**

The report from Sgt O'Conner was circulated with the agenda and was noted. Councillors were pleased to read that a suspect had been arrested and some items recovered from an overnight burglary following review of CCTV. The Clerk reported that he had asked for an update on reports of a traveller encampment at Longforth Farm but had not yet heard back. He said he would email councillors with any updates.

**133 CO-OPTION OF TOWN COUNCILLOR**

Following a casual vacancy in the Rockwell Green Ward, and no election being called by 10 or more electors, the Council considered who to co-opt as a Town Councillor. Applications were circulated by e-mail in advance of the meeting.

**RESOLVED** to hold a secret ballot.

**RESOLVED** to co-opt Susan Fox. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed and she joined the meeting.

At this juncture, it was agreed to bring forward agenda item 18 (access to the recreation ground)

**134 ACCESS TO RECREATION GROUND**

A paper was circulated with the agenda. The Town Clerk apologised for an error as the paper should have referred to the Playing Fields rather than the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the paper should be updated and presented to the next Policy & Finance Committee meeting.

**135 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor had circulated an e-mail report of her recent engagements. She reiterated that it was felt that the marking of Armed Forces Day should be reviewed. The Deputy Mayor was thanked for attending the St John Ambulance presentations.

**136 SOMERSET COUNCIL/LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE**

Councillor C Govier reported that the next LCN meeting was scheduled for next week and was to be the AGM.

Councillor A Govier reported that the Gravity Site had been approved which will provide significant employment opportunities for the area. Large numbers of voluntary redundancies had been approved at Somerset Council but it was expected that more compulsory redundancies will be likely. There is still potential for a Section 114 notice being issued later in the year.

Councillor R Henley has been appointed as Chair of the Constitution and Governance Committee which is due to receive a briefing on proposed boundary changes from the Local Boundary Commission. They are also reviewing call in timings for Planning.

Councillor M Barr reported that he had mostly been addressing case work including road linings in the town.

The Town Clerk reported that there had been two LCN working group meetings (highways and community transport). It was asked that any Councillor who wished to be a member of these groups should contact him. Councillor S Mercer volunteered to join the LCN Community Transport Working Group.

**137 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. Councillor M Barr asked for clarification on the second Community Warden being employed via an agency. The Clerk explained that flexibility was required as details around the devolution of services are reviewed. Further to this, the Clerk reported that details will be presented to the Policy & Finance meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July and encouraged as many Councillors as possible to attend.

**138 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2024 were circulated with the agenda and were noted. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- i. That the Council provide funding for the breakfast initiative at Beech Grove for the next academic year.

Councillor Lithgow declared a personal interest as a Governor of Beech Grove School.

**RESOLVED** to provide funding of £12,000 for the breakfast initiative for the next academic year. £8,000 of which will be funded in the 24/25 financial year and £4,000 added to the 25/26 budget. Councillor J Cole expressed thanks to Deb from Beech Grove School to her hard work in setting up and administering the initiative.

- ii. That the Terms of Reference for all committees be adopted as previously circulated with the Annual Meeting (i.e. Committees have full spending authority within the parameters detailed in the paper considered at the meeting) after updating the Budget Cost Centres each committee is responsible for so that there is no overlap. Updated copies were attached to the agenda.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Terms of Reference as presented.

- iii. That the Scheme of Delegation be adopted following any changes required by item ii above, and that Officers are given delegation to spend specific budget codes as will be defined in the updated draft. The updated draft was attached to the agenda.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Scheme of Delegation as presented.

### **139 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 June were circulated with the agenda and noted. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- i. That three thermal imaging cameras should be purchased at a cost not exceeding £1,100.

**RESOLVED** to purchase three thermal imaging cameras at a cost not exceeding £1,100.

- ii. That a quote of £130 for cutting fields in the Green Corridor and for £90 for cutting the Longforth Farm allotments totalling £420 plus VAT is approved.

**RESOLVED** to accept the grass cutting quotations.

### **140 COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

The following committee vacancies were noted.

- i. Policy & Finance (1 vacancy)
- ii. Environment (1 vacancy)
- iii. Planning (1 vacancy)

### **141 EXTERNAL FUNDING REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

The Working Group met on 17 June to review the existing SLA with Reminiscence Learning as well as a request for additional funding from the organisation. The Working Group made the following recommendations:

- i. That Appendix B of the existing agreement (£12,000pa value) be updated as attached.

**RESOLVED** to accept and update Appendix B of the current agreement as presented.

- ii. That an additional £5,000 of funding be allocated from the Service Level Agreements budget for the final two years of the current agreement (24-25 and 25-26) for services delivered by the organisation to Wellington residents as detailed in Appendix C in the attached updated agreement

**RESOLVED** to provide the extra £5,000 funding with terms as detailed in Appendix C as presented.

**142 CARNIVAL CLASS SPONSORSHIP**

**RESOLVED** to sponsor the Comic Class at a cost of £400.

**143 MAYOR'S HONOURS BOARD**

A paper was circulated with the agenda. After some discussion, it was proposed and duly seconded that the principle of ordering an honours board detailing past Chairmen and Mayors be taken forward. There were six votes in favour and six votes against. The Mayor used their casting vote against the proposal and the motion was not carried.

**144 COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES**

Councillors J Cole, S Fox and S Pringle-Kosikowsky declared interests in this item and left the meeting. As it was the last item on the agenda, they gave their apologies and did not return before the meeting was closed. At this juncture, Councillor R Henley also gave his apologies and left the meeting.

A paper was circulated with the agenda and was noted. After some discussion, having noted the legislation cited in the paper as well as previous comments from the Internal Auditor, it was **RESOLVED** to also pay allowances to those Councillors who have been co-opted.

**STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<p><b>Members of Somerset Council:</b> Councillor Andrew Govier Councillor Marcus Barr Councillor Ross Henley</p> <p><b>Director of the Somerset Association of Local Councils</b> Councillor Janet Lloyd</p>
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The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Mayor

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