

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT UNTIED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 8 JULY 2024 AT 6.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Alice Kendall – Deputy Clerk/Deputy RFO
David Farrow – Town Clerk
Darren Hill – Open Spaces Manager
Three members of the public
One member of the press

145 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors A Govier and J Lloyd have a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council’s IT consultant, being former customers of the company.

Councillor J Thorne has a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council’s IT consultant, being a friend of the company owner.

147 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke to give clarification and further information on agenda item 7 (Access to the Playing Fields on Wellington AFC Matchdays) and Councillors asked questions.

During this item, Councillor A Govier arrived at the meeting and declared a personal interest in the item as a member of the football club.

148 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 10 June 2024

149 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

(a) TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 2 JULY 2024

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation.

(b) TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR 5 JUNE – 2 JULY 2024

RESOLVED to note and approve the expenditure. The payment of an allowance to a Councillor who has since resigned was questioned. This matter will be brought back to a future meeting.

Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowsky declared a personal interest as a member of the Film Festival Committee.

(c) TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME RECEIVED FOR 5 JUNE – 2 JULY 2024

RESOLVED to note and approve the income.

(d) TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AGAINST THE BUDGET FOR THE 2024-25 YEAR AS AT 4 JUNE 2024 (attached)

RESOLVED to note and approve the budget report. The following were noted:

- Code 73 – Film Festival – It was agreed that this should be brought in line with the grants. The Deputy Clerk reported that she will send a grant application form to collect information and present to the External Funding Working Group with a view to form a new SLA.
- Code 140 – Summer Street Fair – overspend noted.

150 Q2 GRANTS

A summary of the applications received in Quarter 2 was circulated with the agenda.

(a) Somerset Youth Theatre

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow a representative to answer questions.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders

RESOLVED to award a grant of £1,000.

(b) Wellington Warm Place

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow a representative to answer questions.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders

It was proposed and duly seconded that this application be deferred and ask for an updated application. There were two votes in favour, the motion was not carried.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £2,400.

151 DEVOLUTION WORKING GROUP

The notes from the meeting held 26 June were noted and the Clerk gave a verbal update. As Chairman of the Group; Councillor Cole reported concern that Somerset Council continually reported costs far in excess of those reported to the Council during the budget setting process. It was further noted that the Open Spaces Management item later in the meeting would contain more detailed information on that piece of work.

A discussion on the locking of the park took place, it was agreed that the group would review this further.

During this item, Councillor S Mercer left the meeting.

152 ACCESS TO THE PLAYING FIELDS ON WELLINGTON AFC MATCHDAYS

The committee were asked to consider a request for comment from Somerset Council on a request from Wellington AFC that access to the Playing Field is restricted on match days. A report was circulated with the agenda.

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to support the request on the understanding that the club needed to be able demonstrate that it was able to close the site off but that in all likelihood this would only be enacted for FA Cup and FA Vase matches and where larger than average crowds were expected. It was also noted that during any closure the tennis and cricket clubs would still be accessible for those using them.

153 PROVISION OF TOILETS FOR THE CARNIVAL

The committee were asked to consider a request from the Wellington Carnival Committee that the Town Council fund the provision of three portable toilets plus one disabled toilet at Longforth Road, given the lack of public toilets at that end of the town. Correspondence was attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED to approve funding of toilets for Longforth Road (three standard, plus one disabled) at a cost of £378, plus a contribution to delivery costs at a total of £112.

154 TO CONSIDER EXCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Reason: taken from legislation Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

155 OPEN SPACES MANAGEMENT 2025/6 ONWARDS

A paper was circulated with the agenda and the Clerk gave a verbal update. The Deputy Clerk and Open Spaces Manager presented initial figures on the projected costs and precept impact. It was agreed that the Open Spaces Management should be a blended operation of an inhouse team with specialist activities being outsourced. The Officers will continue to do more work on the proposals to be brought back to a future meeting, it was anticipated that the original September deadline will still be reached.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45 pm

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