

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON
WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2024 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)
Councillors C Booth, C Govier, M Lithgow and S Pringle-
Kosikowsky and K Wheatley

In attendance: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
Darren Hill (Open Spaces Manager)
Stephen Tate (Climate Change Project Officer)
Steve Saunders, Footpath Volunteer Coordinator for agenda item
6.
Councillor S Mercer
Councillor J Thorne
Four members of the public

112 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

114 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Councillor J Thorne spoke saying that he did not believe a Right to Grow Policy was required as it was already happening in the town, noted that the Climate Change Strategy was not attached to the agenda, stated that he supported the purchase of the thermal imaging cameras but considered the Ballot Bin proposal a waste of money. He also spoke against the erection of fencing in Fox's Field.

At this juncture Councillor Thorne left the meeting.

115 FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders provided an update on the work of the footpath volunteers noting that issues identified by the member of the public at the previous meeting had been addressed and that in total the volunteers had undertaken 28 hours of work since the last meeting.

116 RIGHT TO GROW

A paper had been circulated with the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of Transition Town Wellington to address the Committee and explain the concept of the Right to Grow.

After asking questions it was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

After some discussions it was **RESOLVED** to ask officers to do more work on this and develop a proposal for how the Right to Grow could work in the town for consideration at a future Committee meeting noting that at present the priority for

officers had to be preparing to take on the management of the Open Spaces from Somerset Council.

117 BUDGET REPORT

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The Town Clerk said he would report back on the apparent overspend on the Longforth Farm Allotment line.

118 CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN UPDATE

A paper had been circulated with the agenda and an updated version was tabled at the meeting It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That work should continue on the development of the Action Plan and that specifically officers should continue discussions with their counterparts in Tiverton and Cullompton to establish if there was a shared project that could be developed that could draw down funding from the National Lottery or elsewhere and further develop the tree planting strategy.
- (ii) Not to recommend to Full Council that The Housing Charter should be adopted.
- (iii) To recommend to Full Council that three Thermal Imaging Cameras be purchased with costs not to exceed £1,100 on the basis set out in the paper circulated with the agenda.
- (iv) Not to recommend to Full Council that a Ballot Bin be purchased on the basis that it could undermine the condition of the Iron Duke's License not to allow smoking anywhere other than its upstairs terrace.

119 OPEN SPACES MANAGER UPDATE

The Open Spaces Manager provided an update on work that had been undertaken since the last meeting.

120 GREEN CORRIDR AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET 2024/5

It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To recommend to Full Council that Justin Perry-Jones 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.
- (ii) That fencing should not be erected around the river in Fox's Field and that officers should instead explore installing signage at the entrances to the field warning of steep drops and open water and also an information board by the river with similar warnings but also detailing the wildlife and plants in the area and explaining the erosion of the bank.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

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Councillor M McGuffie
Chairman