

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 3 MARCH 2025 AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),  
Councillors M Barr, C Booth, M Lithgow, M McGuffie, S Pringle-Kosikowsky, J Thorne and K Wheatley

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

**570 TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

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

Apologies had been received from Councillors S Fox, A Govier, C Govier-Wiggins, S Mercer and C Penk.

**572 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made at this time.

**573 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held 3 February 2025 after amending item 535 to refer to members being “elected by co-option”. Councillor McGuffie asked that it be noted that he voted against the minutes as amended being adopted

It was agreed to bring agenda item 6 forward to allow Sergeant O’Connor to return to work as soon as possible.

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

The report from Sgt O’Connor was circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

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

A representative of Wellington Medical Centre spoke in support of agenda item 7. Councillors agreed to bring that item forward for consideration prior to taking further comments from members of the public.

**576 PHARMACY AT WELLINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE**

Having considered the letter circulated with the agenda and the information presented in Public Participation, it was **RESOLVED** to support the application for a new pharmacy licence.

It was then agreed to return to agenda item 5 Questions and Comments from members of the Public.

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

Several members of the public spoke to raise concerns about the consultation that had been launched by Pegasus Group/Wellington LVA for a development of up to 250 houses on land south of Oldway Road. A show of hands in the room showed that no members of the public were in favour of the development. The Mayor thanked those present for attending and

speaking and said that the Council's Policy and Finance Committee would be considering its response to the consultation at its meeting on Monday 10 March 2025.

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

The Mayor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

**579 COUNCIL/LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE**

Councillor Lloyd reported that she and Councillor Barr had attended the LCN Highways Working Group meeting where Councillor Lloyd noted that the highways maintenance scheme did not seem to be moving forward.

Councillor Barr had nothing to report.

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

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. He was pleased to report that the new Open Spaces team had started that day and that the Open Spaces Manager has reported that all had gone well.

**581 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2025 were noted. The recommendations contained therein are transacted below as separate items.

**582 PWLB BORROWING APPROVAL – LONGFORTH ROAD TOILETS**

**RESOLVED** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan of £206,466 over the borrowing term of 15.5 years for the erection of a modular build public convenience at Longforth Road. The annual loan repayments will come to approximately £20,000. It is not intended to raise the precept for the purpose of loan repayments.

Councillor Barr asked that it be noted that he voted against the resolution.

**583 BUSINESS CASE – LONGFORTH ROAD TOILETS**

The updated draft business case was circulated with the agenda, and it was **RESOLVED** to accept it to form part of the loan application.

**584 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on the meeting held on 17 February 2025 were noted.

**RESOLVED** that authority be given to submit the funding application to the SALC Health & Wellbeing Fund.

**585 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on the meeting held on 19 February 2025 were noted.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Open Spaces Manager and Climate Change Officer develop an action plan for addressing the recommendations of the Section 19 Flooding Report that relate directly to the Town Council.
- (ii) That the Town Council though the Chief Executive/Town Clerk take responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations in the Section 19 Flooding Report assigned to other agencies and reports on progress to the Environment Committee.

(iii) That establishing how the effectiveness of the maintenance of flood mitigation arrangements on new developments is monitored is included in the actions for the Town Council to undertake.

**586 SOMERSET COUNCIL PARKING POLICY CHANGES**

Parking policy proposals from Somerset Council were circulated with the agenda. The Mayor reported that the executive meeting had scrapped the proposed overnight charges but not Sunday charges. It was agreed that the matter be carried forward by the Economic Development Committee and that the Clerk would register the Town Council's interest in having the Springfield Road car park transferred to them. He will also request costings should the Town Council wish to pay for free parking to continue on Sundays.

**587 STAFF HANDBOOK**

**RESOLVED** to approve the updated staff handbook as presented.

**588 RAILWAY STATION**

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor M Barr to represent the Town Council to attend the Houses of Parliament to lobby Department for Transport Ministers on the Station Project.

**589 REVIEW OF INSURANCE**

**RESOLVED** to delegate the review to the Policy & Finance Committee.

**590 HIGHWAY ADOPTION – SUNKEN FOOTWAY, HIGH STREET**

Having considered correspondence from Highways, it was **RESOLVED** to support the adoption of the sunken footway to the official Highway Network.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

**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

Mayor

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