

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 9 JUNE 2025 AT
6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Vice-Chair),
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, A Govier, C Penk, S Pringle-Kosikowsky, J
Thorne and K Wheatley

IN ATTENDANCE: Alice Kendall – Finance Manager
David Farrow – Chief Executive
Councillor S Mercer
One member of the press

Due to the previous meeting finishing late, the meeting began at 6.40pm.

58 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from M Lithgow.

59 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.

60 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

61 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 14 May 2025.

62 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

a. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 3 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation.

b. TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR 9 MAY - 3 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED to note and approve the expenditure.

c. TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME RECEIVED FOR 9 MAY - 3 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED to note and approve the income.

**d. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AGAINST THE BUDGET
FOR THE 2025-26 YEAR AS AT 3 JUNE 2025 (attached)**

RESOLVED to note and approve the budget report.

63 REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS AND BALANCES

The Finance Manager circulated a paper with the agenda, and it was **RESOLVED**:

- a. That the Council open a new 95 day account with Redwood Bank,
- b. That the cash balances be apportioned as set out in the paper, and
- c. That the Finance Manager be given authority to update the signatories on all savings accounts to include the Mayor and Vice Chairman of the Council.

64 24-25 GRANT FEEDBACK

The feedback provided was circulated with the agenda and was duly noted. It was noted that there could be some improvement on how organisations acknowledge the Council's contribution. Going forward the Finance Manager will add a reminder to the grant award template and make sure logos etc. are forwarded at the same time. Councillors asked that organisations make sure to save any press and media acknowledgements to the Council and give copies at the next feedback round.

65 TOWN BUS WORKING GROUP

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the terms of reference as presented noting that there will no lead officer appointed at this time and that Membership be set as Councillors S Fox, M Lithgow and S Mercer.

66 STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP REVIEW

RESOLVED to adopt the Terms of Reference and set the membership as presented for the following:

- a. **HR Sub-Committee** – Councillors C Govier-Wiggins, M Lithgow and S Pringle-Kosikowsky.
- b. **External Funding Working Group** – Councillors J Cole, M Lithgow and S Pringle-Kosikowsky.
- c. **Audit Working Group** – Councillors J Cole, McGuffie and J Thorne.

67 TOWN GROWTH

The Chief Executive circulated a working paper detailing some of the issues faced given the expected growth of the town. After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a Project Manager be employed for 12 months to bring together the work required including a budget to be made available for any professional fees that may be required to employ experts on the various matters involved. The Chief Executive and Finance Manager to review available budgets.

68 PLANNING MATTERS

a. Government Consultation on the Reform of Planning Committees

Councillors considered information recently published and expressed their disappointment that there was no mention of the role of Town and Parish Councils in the planning process. It was **agreed** to take a view that Town and Parish Councils should be statutory consultees and that the Chief Executive engage with the local MP who has expertise in Planning.

b. Town Council Planning Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the Planning Committee be disbanded with the following outcomes:

- All planning applications received for comment will be circulated to all councillors for comment.

- A system is established through which councillors can request that planning applications be considered by Full Council.
- Significant planning proposals (e.g. multiple residences, supermarkets) should be considered by Full Council as a matter of course and that a lead Councillor be appointed (Councillor J Lloyd) to work with the Chief Executive and/or the Finance Manager to manage the process.
- A draft process/policy to be drawn up for consideration at the next Full Council meeting.

c. Planning Enforcement in Somerset

Councillors considered and noted correspondence from the Leader of the Conservative Opposition on Somerset Council.

69 BOUNDARY COMMISSION DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The draft recommendations were circulated with the agenda. It was agreed that the suggestion for Wellington East & West seemed sensible, however concerns were raised over Rockwell Green and Tonedale being included in a larger division with rural villages/parishes. Councillors asked that more data be provided for the basis on which the proposals were made. It was noted that the projected population figures seem inaccurate based on the knowledge of the number of planned developments in the town. The Chief Executive will collate a response for approval at Full Council.

70 NALC SUPER COUNCIL NETWORK REPRESENTATION

A paper was circulated at it was **agreed** that the Chief Executive continue to attend and report back as required.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 pm

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