

## WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 4 OCTOBER 2021

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT COURT FIELDS SCHOOL HALL, WELLINGTON TA21 8SW ON MONDAY 4 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Lithgow (Mayor),  
Councillors M Barr, A Govier, R Henley, J Hunt, M McGuffie, N Powell-Brace, S Pringle-Kosikowsky, J Thorne, V Stock-Williams

David Farrow (Town Clerk), Annette Kirk (Deputy Clerk), Alice Kendall (Deputy RFO & Assistant Clerk)

Two members of the press and two members of the public were in attendance.

#### **263 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Mayor opened the meeting.

#### **264 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Booth and Lloyd who were unable to attend because of personal commitments and Councillors Bradley and Smith who were unable to attend because of work commitments

#### **265 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Barr, Govier, Henley, Lithgow and Stock-Williams declared personal interests as members of Somerset West and Taunton Council.

Councillors Govier, Hunt and Thorne declared personal interests as members of Somerset County Council.

Councillor Lithgow declared a prejudicial interest in item 7 as a director of WHERE.

#### **266 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve and formally adopt the minutes of the Planning and Full Council meetings held on 6 September 2021.

#### **267 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No public representation had been received.

#### **268 REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor reported that he had circulated details of his engagements in September and early October prior to the meeting. He also reported that he had attended the Howard Road Fun Day and had had the pleasure of opening the Welly Welcome Weekend Street Fair on 25 September. In relation to the Street Fair, he wished to publicly thank the Deputy Clerk and Councillor Lloyd in particular for all the hard work they had put in to making the Fair a success and to all those who had helped out on the day.

**269 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda along with a copy of the Council Work Plan which the Clerk reported would be a regular part of his report in future. The Council noted the content of the report

**269 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM**

Sergeant Bishop's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Councillor Thorne raised concerns that he had been unaware that discussions were taking place in relation to CCTV provision in the town. He asked that representations be made to Somerset West and Taunton Council that any reduction in CCTV provision in the town would not be welcomed.

**270 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF THE STREET FAIR THAT TOOK PLACE ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Street Fair had been a huge success and that everyone was pleased with the way that it had gone. It had been a long day but worthwhile. She thanked all the Councillors who had turned out on the day to help and in particular Councillor Barr who had helped put up the bunting first thing in the morning and had returned at the end of the day to take it down as well as taking his turn on the Town Council stall.

**271 TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Having considered the draft minutes of the Committee, it was **RESOLVED**

(a) **Pop Up Shop** - to accept the Renewal Lease by reference to the Existing Lease - following item 1.1. "Contractual Term" be amended to read "5 years"

(b) **Christmas Lights** - to approve the Transfer of Five Electric Boxes from Somerset West and Taunton Council to the Town Council.

(c) **Street Furniture on the Corner of Fore Street and South Street** – not to accept the design and quotation from Benchmark Ltd for a Shoreline curved bench and Two Planters on the basis of the cost involved and asked the Town Centre Committee to revisit the proposal.

**272 MARKET EVENTS**

272.1 Somerset Farmers Market

Given that the Somerset Farmers Market is now unable to deliver the monthly market that had been planned for the last Saturday of each month it was **RESOLVED** that

(a) The Town Council continue to take steps to secure a regular Farmers Market on the High Street and seek advice from the National Association of British Markets Authorities

(b) discussions should be held with the Victor Sawdye, Licence Holder of the Wellington Produce Market, to see if its offer could be extended to hold a larger market once a month and to encourage more local traders to join or, if that is not deliverable, to go out to tender

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to find an organisation to deliver a regular Farmers Market with an emphasis on ensuring local providers are prioritised

(c) as part of (b) the Town Council offer to provide administrative/coordination support utilising the experience gained through managing the delivery of the Street Fair.

### 71.2 Christmas Market

Given that the intention had been to ask the Somerset Farmers Market to deliver the Christmas market on the 27 November it was **RESOLVED** that

(a) the Town Council should coordinate the provision of the Christmas Market utilising the experience gained through delivering the Street Fair and working with local providers and

(b) as a first step to submit a road closure application for the High Street for the duration of Saturday 27 November 2021.

### **272 TO AGREE THE DISTRIBUTION OF COUNCIL FUNDS AND SAVINGS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The paper containing the proposed distribution of funds had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations for the distribution of Council funds and savings as set out in the paper and as previously agreed by the Finance Committee at its meeting on the 6 September.

### **273 TO COMMENT ON REQUESTS FOR S106 FUNDING**

A paper detailing the request had been circulated with the agenda. Concern was raised that the Council had already made a recommendation in relation to the use of some of the S106 funds to support the relocation of the football club and that the totals being requested exceeded the amount available. The Clerk advised that Somerset West and Taunton Council were seeking the Council's views on the expression of interest applications to enable it to determine which applications met the criteria for the S106 funding and how the funds should be allocated.

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would support all three applications in principle as all would provide significant benefit to the town. It was noted that if there were insufficient funds available to support all applications then the Town Council could consider using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to support the projects. In relation to the rugby club application it was requested that as part of the process the club be asked to return the footpath between the Recreation Ground and the Basins to public ownership.

### **274 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

The External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21 were circulated with the agenda and had previously been circulated to councillors. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Report.

At this juncture, Councillor Lithgow left the meeting as he had declared a prejudicial interest in the next item. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Stock-Williams took the chair.

### **276 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS**

The Finance Committee had previously considered a draft Service Level Agreement with WHERE and proposed to the Council that it be approved. It was **RESOLVED** that a new 3 year agreement

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be entered into with WHERE granting payment of £2,500 per year. Before signing the agreement, the Deputy RFO will check that their Annual Report contains figures of hours provided and number of people who used the service. It was also confirmed that the new template for SLAs requires more in-depth monitoring and that the payment process carried out by Officers had changed slightly to ensure this is adhered to.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.**

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**Councillor Mark Lithgow**  
**Mayor**