

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2024 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor C. Booth (Chair),
Councillors M Lithgow, M. McGuffie, J. Thorne. K. Wheatley.

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow – Town Clerk
Annette Kirk - Assets & Events Officer
One member of the public

As Chair of the former Town Centre Committee, Councillor C Booth opened the meeting.

39 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor C Booth as Chairman.

40 TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

RESOLVED to elect Councillor M Lithgow as Vice Chairman.

41 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor J Lloyd. Councillor S Mercer was absent.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

43 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Centre Committee held on 12 March 2024.

44 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of public spoke, raising concern over the number of inappropriate shops signs that had appeared in the town centre conservation area.

45 WELLINGTON MARKET

Councillor K Wheatly updated the Committee on the current position of the town market. Wellington Independent Market will hold their first market on 21st September 2024. After much discussion it was agreed that after the September market, we look at the structure of the market for 2025. Officers will work with Wellington Independent Market to agree the number of markets, location, and trading day in readiness for submitting a road closure application for 2025.

46 EVENTS 2024/25

(a) 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY EVENTS

Project plans for Street Fair on Saturday 1st June and Thursday 6th June were circulated to the Committee. No questions were raised. Councillor McGuffie wanted it noted what a commendable effort the Council Officers had put in to pull both events together.

(b) 2024 Events in Diary – Information Only:

Remembrance – Armistice Day – Monday 11th November
Remembrance Sunday - 10th November
Christmas Market and Lights Switch on – Saturday 30th November.

47. WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

- (a) **RESOLVED** to accept and adopt the Event Working Group terms of reference as presented.
- (b) **RESOLVED** to set the membership as Councillors C Booth, C Govier, and J Lloyd

48 HERITAGE UPDATE

A report from Amy Kemmish, Project Manager, Somerset Council – Heritage at Risk was available to the Committee to read and ask questions. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Heritage at Risk Team was now solely focussed on the Levelling Up Bid work at Tonedale Mill and Toneworks so any other matters relating to the conservation area and Rockwell Green Water Towers would be for the Town Council to raise. He reminded the Committee that a budget had been set aside for 2024/5 for specialist heritage support for this reason and that it may want to consider how it wanted to use that.

49 CORNHILL VICTORIAN LANTERN

RESOLVED to approve the quotation from Gown Engineers for £650.00 and additional fee of £350.00 should a return visit be needed to assess and advise on the installation of the lantern. The Assets & Events Officer to work with Gown Engineers and look at other possible locations in Cornhill.

50 WORKING PLAN

The Committee members to come back with ideas to cover the scope of economic development in the town e.g. events, market arrangements, conservation area, the promotion of Wellington, tourism, Heritage action plan.

Councillors to get in touch with the Clerk or Assets & Events Officer

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

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