

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 10th JULY 2024
AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Vice Chair),
Councillors J Lloyd, M. McGuffie, S Mercer, J. Thorne, K. Wheatley.

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

Councillor M Lithgow Chaired meeting in the absence of Councillor Booth.

156 APOLOGIES

No apologies

157 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

158 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Economic Development Committee held on 15th May 2024.

159 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of public spoke, asking that the Town Council support his application to Somerset Council for a double loading and unloading parking bay outside the former Emporium building.

Standing Orders was suspended to allow Councillors to ask and answer questions.
Standing Orders were reinstated.

RESOLVED to bring Agenda item.11 forward.

160 REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF PARKING ARRANGEMENTS OUTSIDE THE FORMER EMPORIUM BUILDING

Councillors welcomed the new business into the town.
First proposal to support the owner's application to Somerset Council Highways for a double loading/unloading bay. Proposed by Councillor K Wheatley not seconded, so did not go through.

A second proposal was made to support a single loading/unloading bay.

RESOLVED to support a single loading/unloading bay outside the former Emporium building.

161 WORK PLAN 2024/25

(i) Giles Adams, Chair of Visit Somerset presented to the Committee about its work and how they could offer to promote Wellington.

RESOLVED to recommend to full council that a Promotion of Wellington Working Group be established to work with Visit Somerset to develop proposals for how the Town Council could promote Wellington. Councillors J Thorne, M Lithgow expressed an interest in being part of the Working Group.

(ii) **RESOLVED** to use the Heritage Support Budget to source a consultant to develop proposals for improving frontages of buildings in the conservation area in the town centre and to identify and source grant funding and develop a heritage register for the town.

The Town Clerk asked committee members to come back with further 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.

162 TOWN CENTRE NOTICE BOARD

RESOLVED consider refurbishing the notice board and to obtain a quotation to be bought back to the next Committee meeting.

163 VICTORIAN LANTERN CORNHILL

The Committee reviewed the report provided by Gown Engineering on a suitable location to site the lantern.

RESOLVED to site the lantern in the new residential street off Cornhill, giving access to Old Court Mews, subject to the usual permissions and planning enquiries. Council Officer to also source installation costs.

164 STREET TRADING CONSENT PERMIT

RESOLVED to defer this for 12 months until it is clearer how much more the Town Council would be taking on from Somerset Council.

165 EVENTS 2024/25

(i) 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY EVENTS

The Committee noted the Payment and Receipts reports circulated with the agenda and agreed it was a very successful celebration.

(ii) WELLINGTON CARNIVAL – Saturday 28th September

RESOLVED to approve a budget of £500.00 for council officers to spend to cover costs for light buffet and drinks for the Mayor's Reception.

(iii) 2024 Events in Diary

Remembrance – Armistice Day – Monday 11th November

Remembrance Sunday - 10th November - road Closure Application submitted to Somerset Council.

Councillor J Lloyd informed the Committee that the RBL will invite the Town Council to join the Rockwell Green School Children in October to lay flowers and remembrance crosses in the cemetery.

(iii) Christmas 2024 - Christmas Market and Lights Switch on – Saturday 30th November

The Event Working Group to meet to discuss event format and expenditure. Report back at the next committee meeting.

(iv) Film Festival

Councillor K Wheatley gave an overview of the Film Festival 2024. Following the success and popularity of the screenings and events, the next Film Festival will be held on 3rd,4th & 5th October 2025.

(v) PULSE Smart Hubs

The Committee considered the information presented to them. Some concerns were raised including the suggested number for the town. Pulse Representatives will deliver a presentation to the Town Council at its August meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

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Councillor M Lithgow