

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMITTEE HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON
WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)
Councillors C Booth, C Govier, M Lithgow and S Pringle-
Kosikowsky

In attendance: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
Darren Hill (Open Spaces Manager)
Stephen Tate -Climate Change Project Officer (online)
Steve Saunders, Footpath Volunteer Coordinator for agenda item
7.

Councillor J Thorne
One member of the press
One member of the public

61. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

Councillor M McGuffie was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

62. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowsky was elected a Vice Chairman for the coming year.

63. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

65. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public raised concerns about the condition of the footpath at Crosslands, the lack of a public footpath sign in Tonedale, the need for clearing of footpaths in the Tonedale area and the amount of litter in the park particularly in the summer and on the football pitch.

Councillor J Thorne spoke in support of agenda item 14 the Highways England Tree Planting Proposal.

66. FOOTPATH UPDATE

- (i) Steve Saunders provided an update on the work of the footpath volunteers and said that he would pick up the points made by the member of the public earlier in the meeting. The Open Spaces Manager reported that some people had indicated a willingness to volunteer in his Open Spaces Survey. The Town Clerk suggested that a meeting be convened in relation to this and the next item on the agenda.
- (ii) Letter from Somerset Council's Service Manager – Rights of Way – after some discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to the Service Manager saying that in principal the Council was willing to explore

taking on more responsibility but that more detailed information was needed to allow an in practice decision to be made.

67. CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN UPDATE

- (i) Climate Change Strategy Workshops
The Town Clerk provided an outline of what had been discussed at the workshops and also said that time would be set aside at the Council Visioning Session on the 12 June to discuss the plan in more detail.
- (ii) Pop up Climate Survey Results – these had been circulated with the agenda and would form the basis of further work.

The Town Clerk also advised that he was in discussions with the Climate Change Project Officer about extending his contract given the amount of work that was required to continue moving the project forward.

68. GREEN CORRIDOR ADVISORY BOARD

The meeting had taken place the previous evening so notes of the meeting weren't yet available. The Town Clerk advised that the meeting had considered the grass cutting plans for the corridor so that the Open Spaces Manager could begin to approach contractors to get prices.

69. WELLINGTON COMMUNITY FOOD FUNDING REQUEST

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To provide funding of £2,405.60 as a contribution to match funding to be drawn from the Green Corridor Budget.
- (ii) To approve the installation of additional structures on the farm site and the ground works required for that and for installing a water supply as set out in the report.

At this juncture Councillor C Booth gave his apologies and left the meeting.

70. GREEN CORRIDOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGETS 2024/5

Papers outlining work being undertaken to plan spend against the budgets were circulated with the agenda and were noted and the following decisions made. It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That Mike Fletcher be commissioned to undertake fencing works associated with improving safety in the Green Corridor at a price of £3,297.87.
- (ii) That the notice board at Wellington Park should be replaced at a cost of £1,663.23 and £300 installation in preparation for the Green Flag assessment process. The design as set out in the paper with the addition of Town Council crests.
- (iii) That two heritage 'Keep off the Grass' signs be ordered at a cost of £50 each plus £100 installation each in preparation for the Green Flag assessment process.

71. OPEN SPACES SURVEY UPDATE

A summary of the responses received to date was noted.

72. TOWN CENTRE AND PARK PLANTING

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the updated maintenance costs for the watering of the town centre beds, tubs and living walls be accepted being still within the budget previously set.
- (ii) That Council officers be given delegated spending authority to use the remainder of the Town Centre Planting Budget to contract additional watering if required.

73. HIGHWAYS ENGLAND TREE PLANTING PROPOSAL

RESOLVED that officers should proceed with discussion with Highways England in relation to the proposed planting proposal.

74. PLAY AREAS

- (i) The committee noted the RoSPA reports for the Burchills Hill and Richards Close Play Areas.
- (ii) Quotes had not been received for the work required. It was **RESOLVED** that to enable essential repairs to progress quickly officers be authorised to spend up to £4,000 from the Play Areas Budget.

75. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

- (i) The notes of the Basins Allotments Advisory Board held on the 22 April 2024 were noted.
- (ii) It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of up to £1400 from the Allotments Budget to allow officers to order skips as and when needed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm

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Councillor M McGuffie
Chairman