

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 11TH
SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6.00PM**

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

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

258 APOLOGIES

No apologies

259 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

260 MINUTES

Councillor J Thorne asked for the minute relating to the location of the Cornhill Lantern to be clarified.

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Economic Development Committee held on 10th July 2024 with that clarification

261 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

262 GREEN MAN FOLK FESTIVAL PROPOSAL

Mr J Jarrett presented his proposal to hold the event on 21st June 2025. He would apply for external funding to help cover the festival costs. The event planning is still in the early stages.

It was **AGREED** the Town Council are supportive of the idea and hope it is successful. We would also be available to offer advice/guidance on organising events if needed.

The Town Clerk to email any further questions the Committee wished to raise direct to Mr Jarrett.

263 PULSE SMART HUBS

After some discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk should hold further discussions with PULSE and report back to the Committee which would then determine whether to recommend installation in the town to the Town Council

264 HERITAGE MATTERS

- (i) Conservation Area - the Town Clerk reported that he had held initial discussions with a Heritage Consultant who had suggested that he contact Bob Croft, Head of Historic Environment and Estates with the South West heritage Trust for advice on who might be able to offer support. She had also suggested contacting English Heritage. He had emailed the two suggested contacts but had not had replies at the time of the meeting. He reported that he would follow this up.

- (ii) Teares Building – it was agreed that given Somerset Council’s position that it would not be taking any action, consideration of how the Town Council might move this forward should be included in any project brief relating to improving the Conservation Area.
- (iii) Toneworks/Tonedale Mill – the Town Clerk reported that he had met with Lara Bell the newly appointed Head of Regeneration and Major Projects with Somerset Council who was now managing these projects. She was planning on meeting with both public and private sector organisations over the next couple of months to discuss options for moving the projects forward and had said that she would be happy to attend a future committee meeting to update on progress.

265 TOWN CENTRE FOOTFALL COUNTERS

RESOLVED not to enter into a new one-year contract from January 2025 with Proximity Future Ltd.

RESOLVED not to repair the Fore Street (Squirrel Court) Sensor at a cost £175.00.

266 TOWN CENTRE SURVEY

It was **AGREED** not to proceed with the survey, as we are regularly attending community and town centre events using our own “Place Standard Tool” which provides a simple framework to structure conversations about Wellington.

267 EVENTS 2024/25

RESOLVED:

- i) To accept the quotation of £257.00 from Carly Press for 500 copies of the Remembrance Sunday “Order of Service”.
- ii) To approve the expenditure of £10,000 from the Christmas Light Switch On budget line, as detailed in the event expenditure report.
- iii) To approve Somerset Council’s fee of £4438.00 for free parking on the four Saturdays leading up to Christmas from the Free Parking Budget Line. Dates: 30th November (Christmas Market & Lights Switch On), 7th December 14th December and 21st December.

268 NORTH STREET CAR PARK

Councillor K Wheatley and Facilities Manager updated the Committee on work carried out to the signage and markings in the car park.

- a) Bicycle loops have been moved but the post still needs to be installed.
- b) New white triangular markings had been painted on the humps.
- c) New signage had been installed at the entrance to the car park on Fore Street. We have instructed Somerset Council to remove the blue and white “Pay and Display” sign and post on the left-hand side that obstructs the fingerpost sign.

Councillor K Wheatley raised concerns about the large green “Welcome to Wellington – Pay and Display” car park signs and old meters in all the car parks. The signs are ugly and uninformative and does not set a good impression of the town. Somerset Council need to replace them.

It was **AGREED** that Councillor K Wheatley and Facilities Manager would continue working with Somerset Parking Team to get a highly visible walkway painted between pavements at the entrance to North Street Car Park from Fore Street. To also get the large green “Welcome to Wellington, Pay and Display Car Park” Signs and old parking meters replaced and report back to Committee at the next meeting.

269 TOWN CENTRE FLOWERS

NOTED: That a request to Somerset Council had been made to remove the summer bedding and plant winter bedding in the middle of October. This will include the beds in Wellington Park, Lancer Court, Priory, Bulford and all the planters throughout the town centre.

270 DELEGATED BUDGETS

The Committee were sent a paper asking them to review the budgets they are responsible for and assess the budgets requirements for any newly proposed projects for the 25/26 year. Members were asked to complete the Project Initiation Form for any projects they would like to present to the Committee for inclusion in the 25/26 budget. The deadline for items is close of business on 7th October in readiness for the Committee meeting on 16th October.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

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Councillor C Booth