

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2024 AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor C. Govier (Chair),
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, M Lithgow, J Lloyd and M McGuffie

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow – Town Clerk
Peter Joint – Community Connect Champion
One member of the press

338 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

339 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

340 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

341 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on the 16 September 2024.

342 COMMUNITY CONNECT CHAMPION UPDATE

Peter Joint gave an update on the work he is currently involved with. A copy of the notes he referred to is attached to the minutes.

Following a discussion about the role and funding of Parent Family Support Advisers (PFSAs) and the potential role for the Council to support that work the Committee asked the Town Clerk to meet with the head teacher managing PFSA funding in Wellington to explore options and develop proposals.

343 WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE PROMOTION

Councillor McGuffie asked that consideration be given to setting aside funding to allow officers to promote action that needed to be taken to ensure people who were eligible knew what they needed to do to access this benefit. After some discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk and Community Connect Champion would raise the matter at the next One Team meeting to establish what was already being done and to consider if more needed doing.

344 BUDGET REPORT

The budget report for 2024/5 was circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted.

The committee reviewed the proposed budget lines for 2025/6 and made the following recommendations:

- (i) That the budget line for the Pop-Up Shop Overheads should be reduced to £2,000.
- (ii) That the budget lines for Community Safety (58), Community Services and Priorities (60) and Health and Wellbeing (61) should be combined to create a Community Development and Support budget line along with the Youth Services and Cost of Living Fund reserves to give the new Community Development Officer role funding to

work with and deliver projects in 2025/6 whilst establishing what the future budget requirement will be for 2026/7 and beyond.

- (iii) That the budget lines for Emergency Planning (65), CCTV (176), and Bus Shelters (177) and those relating to the Pop-Up Shop and Public Toilets would be better placed with the Economic Development Committee leaving this Committee to focus on community matters.

345 WORK PLAN 2024/5 UPDATES

The Committee Work Plan had been circulated in advance of the meeting with updates since the previous meeting and was noted. The Town Clerk was asked to prioritise the activities and to consider whether responsibility for work on 28-30 Fore Street should sit with the Policy and Finance Committee. The Town Clerk highlighted the appointment of Helen Acreman to project manage the fit out of the Kings Arms Community Space

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

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Councillor C Govier - Chair

Wellington Town Council Community Committee 21/10/2024

- **SCC Consultation. One Team Review and Connect Somerset**

Under high level structure already released there is reference to Connect Somerset under Children's Commissioning and One Teams as part of Community Safety within Partnerships, Localities and Culture directorate. New Councils full structure is open to a 45 day consultation period when it is released on 24 October. This will include further details on specific posts. One Teams are salaried posts whilst Connect Somerset is a commissioned service dependent upon Funding from Supporting Families.

- **Update on Kings Arms**

Work continues at Kings Arms. Bob and I looked at work that will be needed once Falcon Rural Housing have completed their renovations. Hopefully some of this can be done alongside Falcon's work. We are seeking quotes for work needed.(Dave update from Town Council perspective) Falcon are hoping that building will be available to hand over by end of Financial Year.

A filming session organised by SC took place to evidence the joint working particularly with our Social Housing Providers but also the Community and Town Council. A follow up will take place once the building is ready and this will be available on Social Media platforms including You Tube!!

This is a really good idea to showcase joined up working across the town and how we are involving young people in our plans. The same group of young people are involved in a Youth Independent Advisory Group pilot which will feed into the Police IAG which I sit on.

- **Wacky Wednesdays**

Next Wacky Wednesday is on 30 October at Wellington Rugby Club. It is Autumn themed with numerous agencies involved. We are limited to 180 people to comply with Risk assessment figures but bookings are now open. We have recently secured funding of £3000 which will ensure that we are able to continue these events for the foreseeable future.

- **Food Resilience**

With Christmas fast approaching and likely increases in Energy costs a meeting of our Food Resilience group is being convened to ensure that we are best placed to support our vulnerable families at the earliest opportunity by joining up offers available from all.

- **Children and Young Peoples Plan update**

Rhonda and I have been meeting to try to finalise the C and YP Plan for Wellington. This has been delayed due to Wellington Counselling moving premises. However following our last meeting we approached our C and YP Group to obtain details of their current offers for C and YP. Most have now replied and we have booked in a further meeting to progress this work. I also had a meeting with Young Somerset who will also be part of this group and have also expressed an interest in using the Kings Arms when it is available.

- **PFSAs**

I have added PFSAs to this update as I am involved in supporting PFSAs as part of my Connect Somerset Role. A training day was held recently for PFSAs in Wellington, Wiveliscombe and west Somerset Areas. It is clear that some are working in isolation, Some for one school, some for numerous schools. We have one PFSA covering 10 schools !! Connect are seeking funding to continue this very important role.

- **Link up between This Committee, SCC neighbourhood planning (have attached Laura's slides), PCN, Neighbourhoods, One Team Community Work, Cradle to Career Model and LCNs**

As you are no doubt aware there are numerous working groups, initiatives (as mentioned in the heading). We are in danger of being overrun by meetings so we are looking at how these can all be pulled together so that we can all work together in the most efficient way possible. We have identified the Leads for each initiative and plan to meet later this week so that we can:

1. Pull all these initiatives together (a meeting is being organised for later this week to try to do this).
2. Identify Priorities for Wellington and set up Workings Groups which can then feedback to the whole neighbourhood group
3. Set up regular meetings/ breakfasts to update on priorities
4. Look at how these feed into LCNs so that we are able to feed into LCNs priorities identified and feedback from working groups set up . I met Michelle last week and it has been agreed that I can update on what we are working on and decide if these need to be on LCN agenda and if so whether any other LCN members may wish to be involved in sub groups
5. Avoid duplication to secure maximum engagement