

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, S Fox, A Govier, C Gover, R Henley, M Lithgow, M McGuffie, S Mercer, C Penk, S Pringle-Kosikowsky, J Thorne and K Wheatley

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
One member of the press
Two members of the public

299 TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

300 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Councillors M Barr and S Pringle-Kosikowsky.

301 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

302 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held 2 September 2024.

303 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public spoke to thank the Town Council for its work in the Green Corridor and other open spaces and to ask when a bridge was going to be constructed over the weir enabling access from The Basins through to Fox's Field.

The Town Clerk said that this would be a matter for the Green Corridor Advisory Board and Environment Committee to consider and noted that initial enquiries had indicated that a bridge across the weir would be extremely costly so there had to be a degree of realism about what was achievable.

304 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

The report from Sgt O'Connor was circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

Concerns about anti-social behaviour were discussed and Sgt O'Connor said that it was important that any issues were formally reported to allow his team to take appropriate action.

305 SPONSOR FOR WELLINGTON AFC

RESOLVED to agree to allow the football club to use the name of a sponsor in the name for the ground namely The Carly Press Ground at Wellington Playing Field.

306 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The Mayor reported that she was attending the Britain in Bloom Awards event in Bath on the 8 October with the Open Spaces Manager.

307 SOMERSET COUNCIL/LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

Councillor Henley reported on his attendance at the re-opening of Wellington Library and noted to the investment in Wellington Sports Centre.

Councillor A Govier reported that he had attended the recent LCN meeting and asked that Public Health forms a focus of the LCN work and raised concerns about the lack of information from County Highways on when drains/gulleys had last been cleared and jetted,

308 ALLOTMENT COMPETITION WINNERS

The Mayor announced the following winners:

- Best Cultivated Christine Cappell - Plot 16
- Best Managed Michele Beacon - Plot 12
- Best Eco-Friendly Mary Bradford - Plot 25 & 26
- Best Newcomer William Judd - Plot 84
- Highly Commended Newcomers - Monika Csuzdi – Plot 56 and Kirsty Veen - Plot 5

309 REPORT ON IMMENSTADT TWINNING VISIT

Councillor S Mercer reported on his recent visit to Immenstadt.

310 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Clerk’s report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Town Clerk reported that he had attended a Metro Board meeting on the 4 October in relation to the railway station chaired by Gideon Amos MP and attended by Network Rail and GWR. He reported that it had been a positive meeting with all parties confident that the business case was very strong and more advanced than many other projects. The expectation is that there will be an announcement in the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement around the amount of funding available for new stations and that The Department for Transport will then decide which projects to take forward.

311 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2024 were circulated with the agenda and were noted. **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Financial Regulations as recommended by the Committee.

312 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2024 were noted.

313 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2024 were noted. The Town Clerk noted that the Committee had made a recommendation in relation to the creation of a Community Development Worker post but that this would be considered as part of the budget setting process for 2025/6.

314 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2024 were noted. The Town Clerk noted that the Committee had made a recommendation in relation to making the post of Part Time Climate Change Project Officer permanent but that this would be considered as part of the budget setting process for 2025/6.

RESOLVED to delegate authority to officers to spend up to £2,200 on contracting repairs to the Weavers Reach Play Area

315 SURVEY OF LINDEN DRIVE BRIDGE

The issues arising from the survey and the accompanying report were discussed and noted. It was also noted that the current position of the Council was to purchase the Crown Estate

Land. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would seek further advice and report back to the Council.

316 TO CONSIDER EXCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude members of the press and public under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 on the basis that agenda items 19 and 20 contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Councillor Henley left the meeting at 8.15pm

317 INTERIM TOILET CLEANING ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED to contract Domestic Bliss to clean the North Street Car Park and Wellington Park until the 31 March 2025, toilets to start as soon as possible, whilst a tender for toilet cleaning is prepared and advertised.

RESOLVED to delegate to officers' authority to purchase toilet roll, hand soap and other sundries as required (seeking best value in line with financial regulations) with costs to be met from the Unitary Devolution Toilets budget line.

Councillor A Govier left the meeting at 8.35pm

318 CROWN ESTATE LAND

The report circulated with the agenda was noted. **RESOLVED** that areas of the title that appear to have been subsumed into neighbouring properties land should be further investigated and that the broad principle should be that no change in title would be required although if a change of ownership was requested by the neighbouring land owner there should be no cost to the Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:
Councillor Andrew Govier
Councillor Marcus Barr
Councillor Ross Henley

Director of the Somerset Association of Local Councils
Councillor Janet Lloyd

Mayor

.....