

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 6.00PM

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

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

328 APOLOGIES

Charlotte Beatty was unable to attend for agenda item 5.

329 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

330 MINUTES

Councillor K Wheatley updated the committee on the work Somerset Parking Team are doing at North Street Car Park. We need to go back to them regarding the painted pedestrian walkway at the entrance to North Street. We have emailed Somerset Parking Team about the signage in all the car parks. They have replied to say they are inspecting all signage within the car parks county wide but were unable to provide any timescales for this project.

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting held on 11th September 2024.

331 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

332 WELLINGTON INDEPENDENT MARKET

This will be carried forward to the next committee meeting on 13th November 2024.

333 EVENT WORKING GROUP

- i. **RESOLVED** to note the draft minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2024.
- ii. **RESOLVED** to approve the following event budgets for 2025/2026 on block:
 - a. 80th anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May 2025 in Welling Park – Budget £4250.00
 - b. Remembrance Sunday & Armistice Day – Sunday 9th November and Tuesday 11th November 2025 – Budget £1,000.00
 - c. Christmas Market & Lights Switch On – Saturday 29th November 2025 – Budget £7,500.00
 - d. 80th anniversary of VJ Day on Friday 15th August 2025 – Budget £4250.00

334 SOUTH STREET

Councillor C Booth spoke to the committee about the overall street scene. To include improvements to the pavements, extra hanging basket poles and to reduce the number of on-street parking bays to ease congestion.

After some discussion the committee felt we needed to look at the town centre as a whole, as there are uneven pavements town wide and to concentrate more on the safety aspects of the town e.g. pedestrian crossing outside St. John's Church, flooding and blocked drains. To find out what business grants are available e.g. shop window grants.

Councillor C Booth felt a holistic view should be taken going forward.

335 HERITAGE MATTERS

The Town Clerk advised that he was trying to arrange a meeting with Lara Bell, Somerset Council in relation to Tonedale Mill and Toneworks. He also understood that Ben Fox had met with Gideon Amos to brief him on the situation at the Mill and to seek his support. He also reported that the Facilities Manager and he had recently met with a consultant to discuss what support they could provide in promoting Wellington and would bring a proposal to a future meeting.

336 DELEGATED BUDGETS

RESOLVED to note the spend against delegated budgets within the current financial year.

337 BUDGET 2025/6

The committee reviewed each cost centre and budget line.

RECOMMENDATION to Policy and Finance Committee to approve the new cost centres.

RESOLVED

- i. Events Cost Centre: To remove Somerset Day budget line.
- ii. Events Cost Centre: Night Walk – to continue working with Fuse Performance Ltd on the event costs and detail on the theme and report back to the committee.
- iii. Christmas Cost Centre: Additional Lights and Install budget line to include the costs to buy and install lights in Cornhill Lights.
- iv. Economic Cost Centre: To use the Promotion of Wellington and Heritage Lines to contribute to the costs of employing a consultant to develop proposals for the Conservation Area and the promotion of Wellington

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

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Councillor C Booth