

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2024 AT 6.00 PM**

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

In attendance: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
Darren Hill (Open Spaces Manager)
Stephen Tate (Climate Change Project Officer)
Steve Saunders – Footpath Volunteer Coordinator
One member of the press
One member of the public

Prior to the meeting starting the Mayor presented Britain in Bloom certificates to voluntary groups from around the town.

346 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed those present.

347 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

348 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

349 MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 18 September 2024.

350 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments.

351 FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders provided an update on the footpath volunteers' work which was noted, and the Committee thanked Steve for his and the volunteers' work.

352 GREEN CORRIDOR ADVISORY BOARD

The notes of the meeting held on the 24 September were noted.

RESOLVED

- (i) To accept the recommendation of the Board not to proceed with the development of junior sports pitches in 12 Acre Field in light of the findings of the Feasibility Study.
- (ii) That the Playing Pitch Strategy for the town should be revisited and updated in 2025/6 in the context of a wider strategy for sport development in the town.

353 DELEGATED BUDGETS

The report on spend in 2024/5 to date had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

354 OPEN SPACES MANAGER UPDATE

The Open Spaces Manager Update Report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. **RESOLVED**

- (i) To accept the quote from MJ Fletcher to replace the boards on the pedestrian bridge at Weavers Reach with non-slip composite decking timber at a cost of £7,260 plus VAT to come from the Green Corridor Budget
- (ii) That Riverside Plant Nursery be contracted to transport planters from Somerset Council’s Depot to locations around the town at a cost of £390 plus VAT and that funding of £720 plus VAT be approved for the purchase of topsoil and plants for the planter making a total cost of £1,110 plus VAT to be met from the Environmental Improvements Budget.
- (iii) Quotes had not been received for flailing work so this was deferred until the next meeting.
- (iv) To contract Justin Perry-Jones to undertake clearance work in Great Oak Field in preparation for tree planting as part of the Woodland Creation project at a cost of £150 plus VAT to be met from the Green Corridor Budget.

355 BUDGET 2025/6

A report from the Responsible Financial Officer had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. **RESOLVED** to recommend:

- (i) That a budget for new street lights be reinstated - the Town Clerk to propose a figure based on previous installations
- (ii) That the Basins Allotments Advisory Board be asked to review charges for the Basins allotments
- (iii) That all other cost centres be included in the budget
- (iv) That, at the end of the current financial year, the balance of the Environmental Improvements reserve (current balance c£34k) be closed with the funds being transferred back into the general fund. This process means the suggested £30k budget for the same line in the main 25/26 budget is offset by funds already held.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

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Councillor M McGuffie
Chairman