

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2024 AT 7.15 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),  
Councillors J Cole, S Fox, A Govier, M Lithgow, S Mercer, S Pringle-Kosikowsky and J Thorne

**IN ATTENDANCE:** David Farrow (Town Clerk)  
One member of the press  
Four members of the public  
Ollie Smith from PULSE Smart Hubs

**194 TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed Councillor S Fox to her first full meeting of The Council.

**195 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN**

Apologies were received from Councillors C Govier, M McGuffie and K Wheatley.

**196 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**197 COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024**

The Mayor presented the Community Awards to the following:

- Youth Award – Alexander Potter
- Community Award – Wellington Women in Business
- Business Award – Odette’s Tearoom
- Civic Award – Dave Mitton

At this juncture the members of the public left the meeting.

**198 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held 1 July 2024.

**199 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present for this item.

**200 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM**

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

In response to a question Sgt O’Connor clarified the classification of drugs.

Councillor A Govier offered support to Sgt O’Connor and the police service in general given the civil unrest across the country in recent days and assured him of the Council’s full support in the event of any issues arising in Wellington.

**201 PULSE SMART HUBS**

The Council received a presentation from Ollie Smith, Development Director with Pulse SMART Hubs.

After some discussion **RESOLVED** to agree to continue discussions about the possible deployment of SMART Hubs in the town with work to be led by the Policy and Finance Committee.

**202 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

**203 SOMERSET COUNCIL/LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE**

Councillor A Govier reported that the Leader of Somerset Council had today signed off the decision to devolve assets and services to Wellington Town Council.

Councillor Lloyd reported that she had attended the LCN AGM where Councillor Ross Henley had been re-appointed as Chair.

**204 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

**205 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2024 were circulated with the agenda and were noted.

**206 DEVOLUTION WORKING GROUP**

The summary action plan had been circulated with the agenda. The Town Clerk advised that at the September Council meeting officers would be presenting proposals for the resources required to manage open spaces from April 2025. He advised that the technical details in relation to ownership and lease transfers would require longer to work through, but that Somerset Council was aiming to have that finalised by the beginning of April 2025.

**207 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 10 July had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

**RESOLVED** that a Promotion of Wellington Working Group be established to work with Visit Somerset to develop proposals for how the Town Council could promote Wellington. Councillors J Thorne, M Lithgow and S Fox were appointed to the Working Group. Draft terms of reference to be considered by the Working Group at its first meeting.

**208 EVENT WORKING GROUP**

The notes of the meeting held on the 29 July were circulated with the agenda and noted.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) To accept a quotation from Fuse Performance Ltd for 4 Jugglers/Spinners Fire/Glow Performers at a cost of £250.00 plus travel (approx. average £30-£40). Expenditure to be taken from the Christmas Lights Switch On Event Budget Line.
- (ii) To accept a quotation of £2000 from Prosound and Lighting for Stage, Lighting and PA System Hire. Expenditure to be taken from the Christmas Lights Switch On Event Budget Line.

**209 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 15 July had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

**210 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 17 July had been circulated with the agenda and were noted.

After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the proposed sponsorship scheme set out in the paper circulated with the agenda on the proviso that sponsorship amounts properly reflect the actual cost of the plants/maintenance and plaque and officer management time and that it was made clear that the amounts were minimum amounts that could be paid.

**211 COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor S Fox to the Planning Committee  
Noted the remaining vacancies for the policy and Finance and Environment Committees.

**212 TWINNING REPRESENTATION**

Councillors made suggestions to Councillor Mercer for themes he should cover in any speech he makes whilst visiting Immenstadt.

**213 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 if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:  
Reason taken from the legislation - Information relating to a particular individual.

**214 STAFFING REVIEW**

A copy of the review report and recommendations from Local Council Consulting had been circulated with the agenda along with a report from the Town Clerk which made an alternative recommendation for the grading of the post of Responsible Financial Officer.

After some discussion it was proposed that the recommendations in the review report be accepted. An amendment to accept the Town Clerk’s recommendation in relation to the grade of the Responsible Financial Officer post was proposed and seconded but not carried.

**RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations set out in the report from Local Council Consulting to be effective from the 1 April 2024.

**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

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Mayor

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Initial .....