

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 3 DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.00 PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
Alice Kendall (RFO/Deputy Clerk)
One member of the press
Four members of the public

426 TO OFFER WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

427 JANET REED

The Mayor lead tributes to former Town Councillor Janet Reed who passed away on 12 November 2024. A minute’s silence was held.

At this juncture Councillor K Wheatley joined the meeting.

428 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Councillor S Mercer.

429 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

430 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held 4 November 2024.

431 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A representative of Churches Together reminded Councillors that a meal will be held in the URC hall for those who will be along on Christmas day. He encouraged Councillors to pass details on to those who might benefit.

A representative of Transition Town Wellington gave information on their water guardian scheme. They asked if the Council might grant some funding to enable to group to put on some awareness events. The RFO will forward the grant application details to the representative.

432 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

The report from Sgt O’Connor was circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. Councillor Fox thanked the Sgt for a swift response to a matter in Jurston Farm. The Mayor thanked the team for attending the Light Switch on Event and wished them all a Merry, and safe, Christmas.

433 REQUEST FOR SPEED CALMING MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED ON WATERLOO ROAD

Correspondence from a parishioner was circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow a member of the public to speak.

RESOLVED to re-instate standing orders.

Councillors thanked the member of the public for submitting the request. It was agreed that there is a wider issue to be address across the Town and that a working group should be set up to discuss solutions via the Community Committee. In the first instance, the Town Clerk will contact Kate Brown at Somerset highways to arrange a site visit to ascertain if any solutions (signage, etc.) might be implemented quickly at Waterloo Road.

434 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. She further reported that the Christmas Shop Window Competition is to be judged in the week following the meeting and thanked staff for their hard work at the Switch On event the previous weekend.

435 COUNCIL/LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

Councillor A Govier reported that the consultation regarding staffing structure and redundancies is still ongoing and that an extension of time has been requested for works via the Levelling Up Fund at the Toneworks and Mills.

Councillor Henley reported he is chairing the Boundary Review Working Group who will be meeting several times before Christmas and that further consultations will be held in the spring. He further reported on a site visit to the Cades estate with the Clerk, Councillor Cole and Kate Brown from Somerset Highways to discuss the ongoing parking issues there. Some restrictions are being proposed in the first instance but he hopes that further measures can be implemented in the future.

Councillor Barr reported that he is concerned about an increase in Council Tax bills given the current strain on the cost of living. He thanked Councillor Govier for his efforts in having fallen trees attended to after the recent storms.

Councillor C Govier reported that the next LCN meeting will be held on 21 January 2025.

The Mayor reported that she had attended the recent Highways working group meeting where they discussed issues with gullies. She asked that officers check the Parish Online system for data.

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

The Clerk’s report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. He gave particular thanks to the Facilities Manager and Project Assistant for their work in organising the Switch on Event.

437 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes and recommendations of the meeting held on 11 November 2024 were noted.

RESOLVED that comments be submitted in relation to the Boundary Commission’s initial consultation on the new division boundaries for Somerset Council as per the draft circulated with the agenda.

438 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2024 were noted.

439 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes and recommendations of the meeting held on 20 November 2024 were noted.

RESOLVED to fund the printing of a Wellington in Bloom book at a cost of £581.60 from the Promotion of Wellington Budget.

During this item, Councillors Barr and Henley left the meeting.

440 BUDGET 2025/6

The draft budget was considered at a special meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on 18 November. The minutes were circulated with the agenda and were noted.

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to set the 25/26 budget as amended with the income budget (excluding precept) being noted at £68,240 and the expenditure budget being noted at £1,459,132.50.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 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

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