

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT UNTIED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2024
AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Chair),
Councillors A Govier, C Gover, J Lloyd, S Mercer, C Penk, S Pringle-
Kosikowsky and J Thorne.

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow – Town Clerk
Alice Kendall – RFO/Deputy Clerk
One member of the press
Councillor M McGuffie (for public participation only)

401 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor J Cole.

402 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors A Govier and J Lloyd have a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, being former customers of the company.

Councillor J Thorne has a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, being a friend of the company owner.

Councillor C Govier declared a personal interest relating the SLA payment to Citizens Advice Somerset, being an employee of the organisation. Councillor M Lithgow also declared the same interest being a volunteer with the organisation.

403 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor McGuffie reported that although the draft budget included the items as reviewed by the Environment Committee, further work is required to determine how much the possible works for Linden Bridge and the weir will be. The Committee is scheduled to meet on 20 November where they will make a recommendation on an amount to be placed into a reserve fund to accumulate what may be required.

404 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 11 November 2024.

405 25/26 BUDGET AND RESERVES

The RFO introduced the draft budget as presented and it was reviewed by individual Cost Centre.

RESOLVED to make a payment of £11,927.50 into the Cost of Living reserve to bring the balance back to £20,000.

RESOLVED to make a payment of £24,000 into the Youth Services reserve, bringing the balance to £50,000 in order to facilitate the Cradle to Career model of working.

RESOLVED to increase the Clocks budget (Economic Development) to £750 from £500.

Agreed that the Councillor Tablets budget line be re-coded from IT Website & Internet to Cost of Democracy.

RESOLVED that the Open Spaces Staffing line should be combined within the Salaries line under the Staffing Cost Centre.

RESOLVED that the unspent amount of £10,500 for Play Areas in the Unitary Devolution Cost Centre be transferred into a new earmarked reserve at the end of the current financial year, and that £10,000 be added in 25/26 and a further £15,000 in 26/27 to build the balance to £35,500.

RESOLVED to close the Post Office provision reserve at the end of the current year and release the funds back into the General Fund (£2,500).

Having considered Councillor M McGuffie's comments earlier in the meeting, it was **RESOLVED** to create new Bridge reserve with an opening balance of £20,000.

RESOLVED that the Van Replacement reserve be renamed Vehicle Replacement with an increased payment amount of £12,000 each year given the increase in fleet requirements for the Open Spaces team.

RESOLVED to replace the amount spent in 24/25 against the Playing Pitch Strategy reserve (£4,350)

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the budget and reserves be set, as amended. 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 7.45 pm

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