

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowsky
David Farrow – Town Clerk
Annette Kirk - Facilities Officer
One member of the press

393 APOLOGIES

Councillor M. McGuffie

394 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor K. Wheatley declared an interest in Agenda Item 7b Film Festival. He is member of the Film Festival Working Group.

395 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor J Lloyd, Chair of Sampford Arundel Parish Council would like to offer the Town Council an opportunity to purchase a telephone box. This will also be reported at the Environment Committee.

396 WELLINGTON SCHOOL

Alex Battison, Headmaster spoke to the committee about the school's role as a major employer in the town. Since moving to Wellington in August 2024, his family have been made very welcome by the community of Wellington.

The school currently employ 300 people. They have been involved in large amount of charitable work this year. They were very privileged to be part of the Remembrance Parade on Sunday and to see the community coming together. They continue to work on real life projects that will develop future of the community.

Councillor J Thorne asked what impact there would be on jobs in the school following the government's announcement that 20% VAT would be charged on private school fees. Alex Battison said they would work hard to ensure their educational offering remains brilliant and we do not lose any jobs in the process.

Councillor S. Mercer raised concerns over students crossing South Street. Somerset Council had confirmed that the request for a crossing on South Street does not meet their criteria. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would contact Somerset Council for clarity.

397 WELLINGTON INDEPENDENT MARKET

Apologies received from Maxine Price and Charlotte Beatty. They provided a report for the committee. The Committee were pleased with the way the market was run and can only see this as a positive for the town.

RESOLVED to approve the cost of £645.00 for the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order application to cover Wellington Independent Market High Street Markets and Town Council Events up to October 2026. Cost to be covered by the Town Centre Project Budget.

398 EVENTS COST CENTRE 2025/2026

a) **NIGHT WALK – GARDEN OF LIGHT**

RESOLVED to make a recommendation to Policy & Finance Committee to set a budget of £8,000.00 from the Events Cost Centre. Date of event being Saturday 25th October 2025. There were two votes fore, two votes against and two abstentions. The Chair had the casting vote to support the recommendation.

b) **FILM FESTIVAL**

RESOLVED that decisions on the funding of the Film Festival pass to the Economic Development Committee and budget requirements are added to the Events Cost Centre for 2025-2026.

RESOLVED to approve the following recommendations:

- (i) The Film Festival budget line moves to the Events Cost Centre for 25/26,
- (ii) To approve £10,000 of funding for 2025/2026 budget.
- (iii) Somerset Film and Video to continue with the organisation of the 2025 event with regular reports back to the Committee.
- (iv) The Project Assistant and Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowsky be the Council’s link to the Film Festival Committee given that they are already members.
- (v) This to be referred back to the Policy and Finance Committee to agree the set-up details for an SLA Agreement

399 HERITAGE CONSULTANCY REPORT

The Town Clerk and Facilities Manager met with Helen Smith of Cultivate-Innovate and asked her to provide a proposal that outlines the consultancy support required to deliver heritage consultancy support. The proposal was circulated to the Committee for information. The Town Clerk will refer this to the Promotion of Wellington Work Group for them to do more work on putting a proposal together on what the council want to achieve. To include the work, they want to be carried out by Visit Somerset.

RECOMMENDATION to Policy & Finance Committee to approve a £10,000 budget for 2025/2026 within the Promotion of Wellington budget line.

400 PULSE SMART HUBS

Agreed for the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting with councillors and Pulse to put in 6 smart hubs in Wellington. To address concerns on how adverts are shown and what the Town Council can put on.

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Councillor C Booth