

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)
C Govier, M Lithgow, C Penk, S Pringle-Kosikowsky (from 410)
and K Wheatley

In attendance: Darren Hill (Open Spaces Manager)
Rebecca Hunt (Project Assistant)
Steve Saunders – Footpath Volunteer Coordinator
One member of the press
Councillor Janet Lloyd
One member of the public

406 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed those present.

407 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor C Booth.

408 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

409 MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 23 October 2024.

410 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Councillor J Lloyd spoke as Chairman of Sampford Arundel Parish Council offered for sale to the Council a red phone box at a cost of £3,200.

A member of the public raised concerns about brambles on the footpath from Crosslands to Longforth Road and agenda item 13.

411 BASINS ALLOTMENTS ADVISORY BOARD

Councillor J Lloyd, Chair of the Board provided an update and the notes of the meeting were noted.

RESOLVED

- (i) To approve in principle the creation of a Community/Disabled plots on plot 1,2 & 3. Members of the advisory board to create a plot layout plan. To have a working party of volunteers to clear the plot. To obtain materials from donations from local businesses.
- (ii) To approve the new rule and adopt the new Tenancy Agreement – “Tenants are not permitted to carry or use a firearm including an airgun at any time on site.”
- (iii) To adopt the new tenancy agreement to include the new six month probationary clause. Within the first six months Advisory Board members and Council officers to carry out three and six months inspections. This will allow the Town Council to terminate a lease during this period due to lack of cultivation or any breach of the

Allotment Terms and Conditions. Subject to National Allotment Society Legal Department confirming the correct wording.

- (iv) To adopt the Rules & Guidance 2024, Co-Worker Agreement and Polytunnel, Greenhouse, Shed Application Form.

412 THE BASINS ALLOTMENT SITE – TRACK REPAIR

RESOLVED to agree a budget of £500 and to give delegated spending power to the Facilities Manager to manage the purchase of MOT type 1 stone from R W Gale at £30.00 plus VAT a ton. To be taken from the Allotments Cost Centre. Open Spaces Team to complete the work.

413 FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders provided an update on the footpath volunteers' work which was noted. He raised concerns regarding the condition of the boardwalk in the Nature Reserve. Darren Hill advised the Committee that he was in discussions with Somerset Council on this matter and was meeting officers the following day to discuss.

Councillor Pringle-Kosikowsky joined the meeting during this item.

414 DELEGATED BUDGETS

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

415 OPEN SPACES MANAGER UPDATE

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

- (i) To award the contract to flail hedges around Wellington to Justin Parry-Jones at a cost of £640 plus VAT to be met from the Green Corridor budget.
- (ii) To award the contract for replacing timber posts and rail and wire mesh at Weavers Reach Play Area to Mikke Fletcher at a cost of £2,382.77 to be met from the Green Corridor Budget. It was also agreed that temporary fencing and signage should be erected onsite in the meantime until the work can be completed.
- (iii) To award the contract for repairing fencing around The Basins to Mike Fletcher at a cost of £721 to be met from the Green Corridor Budget.
- (iv) To recommend to Full Council that the cost of £581.60 for printing a book about Wellington in Bloom by Isabel Ward be met from the Promotion of Wellington Budget.

416 BUDGET 2025/6

A proposed list of actions with officer comments had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted in the contact that Policy and Finance Committee had met on the 18 November to discuss and recommend a proposed budget for 2025/6.

A proposed Climate Strategy Action Plan for 2025/6 was tabled and discussed. It was agreed that Awareness Sessions should take place but that the sound

equipment should be funded from a different budget as the whole Council would benefit from it. The Finance Manager to advise on which budget should be used.

417 SUBSIDISED BUS TRAVEL

The Chair reported back on a meeting that he and the Town Clerk and had with staff from First Bus regarding the possibility of subsidised bus travel to Taunton funded by the Council. Councillors felt that the Council should focus on improving access to public transport within the town, surrounding villages and Wiveliscombe and that discussion with First Bus should focus on ensuring the quality of existing provision and the potential future need should the railway station not be built.

418 TREE PLANTING FILM

RESOLVED to fund a film of the tree planting in the Green Corridor at a cost of £850 to be met from the Green Corridor Budget.

419 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the meeting scheduled for 18 December be cancelled

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

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Councillor M McGuffie
Chairman