

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT UNTIED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 14 OCTOBER 2024
AT 6.00PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors C Penk and K Wheatley
Alice Kendall – RFO/Deputy Clerk
Seven members of the public
One member of the press

322 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors C Govier.

323 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 J Thorne further declared a personal interest in a payment listed to the Community Centre as he is a member of the Committee. Councillor Lithgow also declared the same interest.

Councillor S Mercer declared a personal interest relating to the grant application from Wellesley Park School as his granddaughter is a pupil.

324 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All those present were representatives of organisations, the Chairman explained that he would suspend Standing Orders at the appropriate point in the agenda to allow them to answer questions.

325 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 9 September 2024.

326 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

(a) TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 8 OCTOBER 2024

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation.

(b) TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR 3 SEPTEMBER - 8 OCTOBER 2024

RESOLVED to note and approve the expenditure.

(c) TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME RECEIVED FOR 3 SEPTEMBER - 8 OCTOBER 2024

RESOLVED to note and approve the income.

(d) TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AGAINST THE BUDGET FOR THE 2024-25 YEAR AS AT 8 OCTOBER 2024 (attached)

RESOLVED to note and approve the budget report.

327 CREATION OF STANDING ORDER

RESOLVED to approve the creation of a new standing order instruction at the bank for the monthly rent, service and insurance charge of the Open Spaces Depot (£1,429).

328 GRANTS

The Committee considered applications as submitted for Q3. A summary and the application documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

(a) BLACK* Artists on the Move – request for £3,000 toward the delivery of two Black History Month day workshops at each of the Wellington Primary Schools (8 days in total)

RESOLVED to not award the grant. It was felt that, at present, the proposal was not detailed enough.

(b) Grand Western Greenway – request for £3,500 toward an engineering assessment and route definition.

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow a representative to give information and answer questions.

RESOLVED to re-instate standing orders.

It was noted that, at present, the costing for commissioning the report is a banded figure of £6-8,000. Taking this into account, it was **RESOLVED** to fund 50% of the cost up to £4,000 from the Cycle Path Contributions budget. To confirm the final amount the organisation is asked to submit the final invoice to release the funds.

(c) Wellington Rugby Football Club – request for £2,000 toward their annual firework display.

It was proposed and seconded to award a grant of £2,000. After some discussion the original proposal was withdrawn, and it was **RESOLVED** to underwrite the event up to £2,000 upon the Club providing evidence that there is a deficit after the event.

(d) The People's Plot, t/a eat:Festivals – request for £750 toward the annual eat:Wellington Event.

RESOLVED to suspend standing order to allow a representative to give information and answer questions.

RESOLVED to re-instate standing orders.

RESOLVED to not award the grant. It was felt that given the Council's support in previous years, the event should now be self-sustaining via the trading fees charged by the organisation.

- (e) **Life Education Wessex** – request for £290 toward delivery of the 'Helping Children Make Healthy Choices' workshop at Rockwell Green Primary School in 2024.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £290.

- (f) **Wellesley Park Primary School** – request for £1,085 for a morning food/breakfast scheme.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £1,085 from the Cost of Living Fund reserve.

- (g) **Community Council Somerset** – request for £1,150 toward cost of the Wellington Together event.

RESOLVED to suspend standing order to allow a representative to give information and answer questions.

RESOLVED to re-instate standing orders.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £1,150.

- (h) **Accelerate Active** – request for £2,858 toward the provision of Blaze Pods, Climb Wall Indoor Pannels and Safety Mirrors.

RESOLVED to suspend standing order to allow a representative to give information and answer questions.

RESOLVED to re-instate standing orders.

It was proposed to award a grant, there was no seconder. It was **RESOLVED** to not award the grant.

329 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT

The Interim Internal Audit report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED to note to the report.

330 DEVOLUTION UPDATE

The Deputy Clerk reported that notes from the Town Clerk would be circulated by e-mail after the meeting. She gave a brief report that not much progress had been made on some issues given the continuing lack of information from Somerset Council, but that some things had been taken into the Town Council's control already e.g. toilet cleaning which was signed off at the October Full Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm

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