

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2025 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)
C. Booth, C Govier, C Penk, S Pringle-Kosikowsky (from 505)
and K Wheatley

In attendance: Darren Hill, Open Spaces Manager
Stephen Tate, Climate Change Project Officer
Steve Saunders – Footpath Volunteer Coordinator
One member of the press

500 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed those present.

501 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor M Lithgow.

502 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

503 MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 20 November 2024.

504 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

505 FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders provided an update on the footpath volunteers' work which was noted. He reported that there was a meeting scheduled with Somerset Council and Darren Hill to discuss the future management of footpaths in the town and that Somerset Council had commenced work on repairing the boardwalk in the Nature Reserve although there were concerns about the quality of work being undertaken. It was agreed that Darren Hill would inspect what was being done and liaise with Somerset Council.

Councillor Pringle-Kosikowsky joined the meeting during this item.

506 OPEN SPACES MANAGER UPDATE

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

507 FUNDING REQUEST – WOODLAND CREATION SCHEME

RESOLVED to agree the additional funding request of £1039.04 plus VAT for tree stakes and chestnut fencing to support the planting of the Woodland Creation Scheme to come from the Green Corridor Budget line.

508 BUDGET 2024/5

The remaining budget for 2024/5 was noted. It was also noted that a number of health and safety related matters in the Green Corridor Development Plan

remained outstanding. It was agreed that the Open Spaces Manager would review these over the next few weeks to prioritise work and develop a plan of action for 2025/6 to be delivered through the new Open Spaces Team. Any urgent work would either be funded by residual balances on other budgets managed by the Committee or through a funding request to Full Council

509 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

The Climate Change Project Officer provided an update on work he had been undertaking. It was noted that there had been a good take up of the Thermal Imaging Cameras through the Library and that there was a waiting list.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the offer from the Centre for Sustainable Energy to carry out Energy Efficiency Surveys of Council buildings and that subject to the Management Committee's approval the Community Centre should be included.

510 WELLINGTON COMMUNITY FOOD

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that it supports the erection of the proposed polytunnel on the Community farm site.

511 CROWN LAND PURCHASE

The Town Clerk reported that there was no progress to report. Matters were still with the Crown Estate solicitors. He had met with a contractor earlier in the week to get an estimate of cost of replacing the Linden Drive bridge and they had also offered to do the same for a bridge crossing the weir.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.15pm.

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Councillor M McGuffie
Chairman