

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT UNTIED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025
AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Chair),
Councillors J Cole, A Govier, C Govier-Wiggins, S Mercer, C Penk, and J Thorne.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor K Wheatley
David Farrow – Town Clerk
Alice Kendall – RFO/Deputy Clerk
1 member of the press
4 members of the public

469 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors J Lloyd and S Pringle-Kosikowsky.

470 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 A Govier further prejudicial interest in the grant application from St Johns Church as a member of the organisation.

Councillor J Thorne declared personal interests in grant applications from On Your Bike (friends with some trustees and has grandchildren are at the schools mentioned) and All Saints Parish Church (has a grandchild at the school).

Councillor J Cole declared a personal interest in the grant application from On Your Bike having been a customer of the organisation in the past and knowing some of the trustees.

471 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak at this juncture.

472 MINUTES

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

473 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

(a) TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 7 JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation.

(b) TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR 4 DECEMBER 2024 – 7 JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED to note and approve the expenditure.

(c) TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME RECEIVED FOR 4 DECEMBER 2024 – 7 JANUARY 2025

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 7 JANUARY 2024 (attached)

RESOLVED to note and approve the budget report.

474 GRANT APPLICATIONS

(a) On Your Bike Recycle Ltd – an application for £3,000 for school based bike maintenance course and Dr Bike sessions was considered.

RESOLVED to award £2,600 to fund the sessions except that of West Buckland School as it is not within the Town Council boundary.

(b) Wellington Cricket Club – an application for £800 towards winter training sessions was considered.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £800.

(c) St Johns Parish Church – an application for £900 towards the running of the warm space was considered.

RESOLVED to award £900 from the Cost of Living fund. The RFO will confirm the year which the funding falls into and will arrange payment accordingly.

(d) All Saints Church Rockwell Green – an application for £3,000 per year for three year (£9,000) for provision of a School Chaplain role at Rockwell Green Primary was considered.

RESOLVED to refuse the grant as it is contrary to the Grant Policy, specifically item 3.7 (activities that promote particular religious beliefs will not be considered)

475 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Clerk circulated a report detailing updates relating to the request to carry out a Community Governance Review. Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction with correspondence from Somerset Council that they were unable to carry out the work required until 2031. After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the Council agree to undertake a review with a view for completion before the next elections in 2027 and that the Council should fund such work either individually or jointly with other Town and Parish Councils in Somerset seeking a review. It was further agreed to recommend that a working be created with the members being Councillors A Govier, M Lithgow, S Mercer, C Penk and J Thorne.

476 FIRST BUS SERVICE PROVISION

Following the discussion at January Full Council, the Committee considered the next steps to take in relation to the bus services in the town. Councillor K Wheatley reported that he had since obtained contact details for a Director at First Bus which he will pass to the Clerk so that an invitation to a meeting can be sent. In the meantime, it was agreed that as much data on user experience as possible should be collected and that officers will consider how that should be done.

477 SOMERSET BUS USERS & STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

RESOLVED to recommend the appointment of Councillor S Mercer as the Town Council representative on the group.

478 LONGFORTH ROAD TOILET BLOCK

A paper detailing updates was circulated in advance of the meeting, it was **RESOLVED** that the next step be to issue the consultation as presented.

479 APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR TO UNDERTAKE GENERAL MAINTAINANCE WORK

A paper was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint M J Fletcher for up to 104 days per year for general maintenance tasks and smaller projects as required.

480 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR WELLINGTON

Councillors discussed the ongoing impact of housing developments within the town, including those already underway and those planned for future. It was agreed that although responsibility for ensuring the appropriate infrastructure is in place falls with Somerset Council, it was important that the Town Council makes holds them accountable. It was further agreed that a further visioning session should be scheduled as previously discussed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm

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