



WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT THE TOWN HALL

Present: Councillors Anderson, Atherton, Cole, Ellard, Greening, Hix, Old, Power, Shelbourn-Barrow (Chair), Smith, Thomas, Tudgay, Walters and Vagg

Also present: County Councillor Anna Groskop and Mrs P William (SSDC)

Locum Clerk: Zöe Godden

There were eleven members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

The meeting started at 19:00.

The Chair welcomed everyone and asked Councillors to confirm that they had received the supporting papers before the meeting. All Councillors had received the supporting papers.

19:01 – The Chair allowed a public open session.

Two members of the public spoke about item 105-22. The Chairman thanked them for their comments and confirmed that any changes to allotment fees would not include administration costs.

19:10 – The Chair brought the public open session to a close.

096-22 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Ralph.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Hix, seconded by Councillor Vagg and agreed to approve the reason for absence as presented. 12 in favour. Councillors Anderson and Ellard abstained from voting and asked for this to be recorded in the minutes.

097-22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

098-22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING held on 23rd August 2021

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Hix, seconded by Councillor Vagg and agreed to approve the minutes as presented. 11 in favour; two against. Councillor Atherton abstained from voting and asked for this to be recorded in the minutes.

19:18 – Two members of the public joined the meeting.

099-22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Planning Committee 14th September 2021 and Personnel Committee 26th August 2021 and Open Spaces 8 September 2021 were **noted**.

Item 105-22 was brought forward to this point in the meeting.

105-22 ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT, COSTS AND FEES

The Chair summarised the information that had been provided to Councillors before the meeting, including the three options for future fees.

Councillor Ellard **proposed** and Councillor Old seconded, that the allotment fees should remain unchanged.

Councillor Tudgay **counter-proposal** a 5% increase.

The Chair took votes on Councillor Ellard's **initial proposal** for no change to the allotment fees, which was seconded by Councillor Atherton. Four votes in favour; 10 votes against.

Motion not carried

Councillor Tudgay repeated his **counter-proposal** to increase allotment fees by 5% which was seconded by Councillor Thomas. Ten votes in favour; three against. Councillor Power abstained from voting and asked for this to be recorded in the minutes. **Motion carried.**

19:38 – 10 members of the public left the meeting.

100-22 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS COLIN WINDER AND NICK COLBERT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANNA GROSKOP

County Councillor Groskop had submitted a written report, which had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. In addition, Councillor Groskop gave a verbal report on progress with the Unitary Authority, waste collections and the MHA Live at Home charity.

Item 103-22 was brought forward to this point in the meeting.

103-22 REGENERATION BOARD UPDATE

Mrs Williams had to leave the meeting due to a prior engagement but agreed to send a written report to update the Council on progress with the Regeneration project.

19:45 – Mrs Williams left the meeting.

101-22 REPORT FROM WINCANTON TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

It was noted that the Clock at the Town Hall had been repaired with assistance from Councillor Ellard, who would also train a member of the Works staff to wind the clock. It was further noted that the Town Council was advertising for a Town Crier and the Chair asked Councillors to promote this voluntary post.

102-22 REPORTS FROM WINCANTON TOWN COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Councillor Power reported that he had attended a careers day at King Arthur's School, where he spoke about his role as a Town Councillor. Students had asked if a Youth Council could be formed. The Chair said that Young Somerset had carried out a survey, which would be referred to the Youth Working Group and would facilitate grant applications for any youth related projects in the future.

Councillor Walters reported that the new MHA manager was settling in well and a new Friday group would be starting in the near future.

103-22 REGENERATION BOARD UPDATE

This matter was dealt with after item 100-22 above.

19:53 – One member of the public left mtg.

104-22 CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP

- a) Council is asked to RESOLVE that the 70+ Christmas Lunch 2021 will be organised by the Town Council.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Atherton, seconded by Councillor Old and unanimously agreed that the Town Council would organise the over 70's Christmas lunch.

- b) Council is asked to RESOLVE to approve any additional Councillors to be included on the Christmas Working Group.

Several Councillors expressed an interest in joining the working group. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk would be asked to email all Councillors to arrange a date for the first meeting of the Christmas Working Group, at which new Councillor members could be agreed.

105-22 ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT, COSTS AND FEES

This matter was dealt with after item 099-22 above.

106-22 DEFIBRILLATOR AT CRICKET PAVILION

Councillor Ellard explained that the defibrillator could be installed at no cost to the Town Council because a local group were planning to raise funds. It was noted that the group would be able to apply for a grant from the Town Council.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Old, seconded by Councillor Tudgay and unanimously agreed to give permission for the installation of a defibrillator at the Cricket Pavilion.

107-22 LOADING BAY AT MARKET PLACE: SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Ellard, seconded by Councillor Thomas and unanimously agreed to approve the replacement of one parking space with a loading bay at the Market Place.

108-22 ERECTION OF 5 NEW DWELLINGS HOUSES TO THE REAR CARPARK AND GARDEN OF THE FORMER WHITE HORSE, INCLUDING A NEW PARKING LAYOUT FOR THE WHITE HORSE AND NEW DWELLINGS, LANDSCAPING AND BIN STORE AND CARPORT

Land Rear White Horse Hotel High Street Wincanton Somerset BA9 9JP

South Somerset District Council has received amended plans and/or additional information concerning application. Planning Committee 14th September 2021 Recommends Support. Ref. No. 20/03363/FUL

<https://publicaccess.southsomerset.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QK1XYROWLSQ00>

At its meeting on 14th September, the Planning Committee had agreed to recommend that the Full Council supported this application.

20:10 – Councillor Power left the meeting.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Ellard, seconded by Councillor Old and unanimously agreed to support the application.

20:11 – Councillor Power returned to the meeting.

109-22 ENVIRONMENT: WEEDS

Following Open Spaces Committee 8 September 2021 Council will CONSIDER the Town Council's responses to concerns about the town's environment / appearance especially concerns about overgrown areas and RESOLVE any actions.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Atherton and unanimously agreed to instruct the Town Clerk to write to South Somerset District Council (SSDC) to ascertain what action they planned to take to tackle weeds in the town and, on receipt of any information from SSDC, that the Open Spaces Committee should develop its proposal for action further and bring this to a future Full Council meeting, if required.

110-22 ANNUAL GRANTS POLICY

Council is asked to RESOLVE to approve the revised Grants Policy.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Atherton, seconded by Councillor Greening and agreed not to adopt the revised Grants Policy. Rather, the policy would be reviewed in May 2022 and the current policy would remain in place until then.

111-22 ANNUAL AWARDS TEMPLATE

Council is asked to CONSIDER and RESOLVE to approve any amendments to the Nomination Form and approve the Policy.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Greening, seconded by Councillor Thomas and unanimously agreed to approve the amendments to the Nomination Form and to approve the Policy, subsequent to the correction of some minor spelling and grammatical errors and the application of the correct dates and email address.

112-22 OPEN SPACES ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Council is asked to NOTE the report. **Noted.**

113-22 MAKE SPACE FOR GIRLS ENGAGEMENT

Council is asked to NOTE the report. **Noted.**

114-22 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES FUND

Council is asked to RESOLVE to approve the bid proposal (having been considered by the stakeholder group) to the reconnecting communities fund.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Vagg, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed to approve the bid proposal as presented. 13 votes in favour; One abstention.

20:31 – Councillor Atherton left the meeting.

115-22 WELCOME BACK FUND (Background Paper)

Council is asked to RESOLVE to approve the bid proposal (having been considered by the stakeholder group) to the Welcome Back Fund.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Thomas and agreed to approve the bid proposal as presented. 12 votes in favour; One abstention.

116-22 GOOD STUFF FUND 2020/21 AND 21/22

Council is asked to NOTE the end of year project reports and programme summary and to RESOLVE to approve the launch of the Good Stuff Fund 21/22.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Tudgay, seconded by Councillor Greening and agreed to approve the launch of the Good Stuff Fund 21/22. 10 votes in favour. Councillors Ellard and Old abstained from voting and asked for this to be recorded in the minutes.

117-22 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Following postponement of the Annual Parish Meeting that was planned for April 2021, Council will be asked to RESOLVE if/when the Annual Parish Meeting 2021 should be arranged.

The Chair **proposed** that the Annual Parish Meeting should not be held in 2021 but that all reports received should be added to the Town Council's website.

Councillor Ellard **counter-proposed** that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held in 2021.

The Chair took votes on her **initial proposal**, which was seconded by Councillor Greening. Nine votes in favour; Three votes against. One abstention from Councillor Power who asked for this to be noted in the minutes. **Motion carried.**

118-22 UNITARY SOMERSET

- a) Council is asked to RESOLVE approve that an expression of interest be presented (by end September 2021) in establishing a pilot for a health and wellbeing Local Community Network (LCN) with a focus on building a thriving community, with Castle Cary Town Council, Bruton Town Council and local Parish Councils.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Tudgay, seconded by Councillor Hix and agreed to approve that an expression of interest be presented by the end of September 2021 in establishing a pilot for a health and wellbeing Local Community Network (LCN) with a focus on building a thriving community, with Castle Cary Town Council, Bruton Town Council and local Parish Councils. 11 votes in favour; Two abstentions from Councillors Ellard and Old, who asked for this to be recorded in the minutes.

- b) Council is asked to RESOLVE to approve hosting a meeting with Somerset councils local to Wincanton, Castle Cary and Bruton to discuss Unitary Somerset.

The Chair explained that this would be an opportunity to ask questions of the Unitary implementation team.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed to approve hosting a meeting with Somerset councils local to Wincanton, Castle Cary and Bruton to discuss Unitary Somerset. 11 votes in favour; Two abstentions from Councillors Ellard and Old who asked for this to be recorded in the minutes.

- c) Council is asked to RESOLVE that the Chairman attend (with the Town Clerk if required) meetings relating to establishing Unitary Somerset Council including the Somerset LGR Advisory boards (dates tbc) and representing the Town Council at the planned forthcoming local councils conference 7 October 2021.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Vagg and agreed that the Chair and Town Clerk (if necessary) should attend any meetings relating to

the Unitary Somerset Council including the Somerset LGR Advisory boards (dates tbc) and representing the Town Council at the planned forthcoming local councils conference 7 October 2021.11 votes in favour; two votes against.

119-22 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS CONSULTATION

The Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) has consulted local councils (20 August 2021) on having elections for local councils in May 2022 to coincide with elections for the proposed Somerset unitary council. Council will RESOLVE its consultation response.

The Chair **proposed** and Councillor Hix seconded that the elections should be held in 2024 to provide stability and reduce the loss of business intelligence. Six votes in favour from the Chair, Councillors Vagg, Walters, Cole, Hix and Tudgay; seven votes against from Councillors Greening, Power, Smith Old, Ellard, Anderson and Thomas. **Motion not carried.**

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Ellard, seconded by Councillor Old and agreed that the Town Council prefers the elections to take place in 2022. Seven votes in favour from Councillors Greening, Power, Smith Old, Ellard, Anderson and Thomas; six votes against from the Chair, Councillors Vagg, Walters, Cole, Hix and Tudgay.

20:58 – County Councillor Grsokop left the meeting.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to extend the meeting past the two-hour duration. Ten votes in favour; Three votes against.

20:59 – Councillors Anderton, Ellard and Old left the meeting.

120-22 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

Council is asked to NOTE an update on CIL. **Noted.**

121-22 CAR PARK COMPENSATION SCHEME

Council will RECEIVE an updated Car Park Compensation Scheme with South Somerset District Council (SSDC) including revisions.

The Chair explained that the Town Council's solicitor had further work to do in relation to the raising of fees without right of reply or appeal for the Town Council and other points in the draft agreement, which were detailed at the last Full Council meeting. The matter would be brought before a future Town Council meeting. The Town Clerk was instructed to find out the amount of solicitor's fees that had been incurred to date and to report back to the next meeting.

122-22 STAFF COSTS

Council is asked to NOTE the overspend for Locum costs but that the overall budget for staffing costs is within in budget as at month 5.

Noted. The Town Clerk was instructed to arrange for £5,000 to be transferred from the main staffing budget to the Locum budget.

123-22 FINANCES: AUGUST 2021 – MONTH 5

Council is asked to NOTE the finances for month 5:

- Payments
- Receipts
- Summary of receipts and payments against budget

Noted.

124-22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Council is asked to RESOLVE that pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Vagg, seconded by Councillor Walters and unanimously agreed to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

125-22 INTRUDER ALARM: TOWN HALL

Council will consider quotes and RESOLVE to appoint a supplier to install an intruder alarm at the Town Hall.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Tudgay, seconded by Councillor Thomas and agreed to accept the quote from Ocean Fire and Security. Nine votes for; One vote against.

126-22 PRINTER /PHOTOCOPIER /SCANNER

Council is asked to RESOLVE to approve the purchase of a new managed service combined printer/photocopier/scanner.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Greening, seconded by Councillor Tudgey and agreed to accept the quote from Clarity. Eight votes in favour; Two votes against.

The meeting ended at 21:28.

Zoe Godden

29/09/2021