



Wincanton
Town Council



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DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2025 AT 7:00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WINCANTON TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs H Ellard (Chairman), T Howe, T Power, D Old, C Rogers, P Rodgers, D Smith, A Waistell, C Wallis & S Wing

PROPER OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Emma Curtis: Town Clerk
Tracy Lamb: Deputy Clerk/RFO

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: 4

MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL PRESS IN ATTENDANCE: 0

SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS: Cllr L Trimnell and Cllr T Power

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke regarding planning applications and queried whether Cllrs viewed comments posted on the Somerset Council website. Cllr Ellard confirmed that they do and are taken into consideration.

Cllr Old spoke as a member of the public regarding a group of teenagers causing crime and antisocial behaviour within the town and Avon and Somerset Police appearing not to be taking appropriate action. Cllrs agreed that the Town Council communicate these concerns with Avon and Somerset Police and put pressure for improvements on policing within the town. It was further agreed to address these issues in the new Town Council newsletter and invite County Cllrs and the MP to an upcoming meeting with representatives from Avon and Somerset Police.

Action: 200125/1 Town Clerk

The meeting commenced at 7:10pm.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Ellard proposed Standing Orders be suspended and items on the agenda rescheduled to deal with finance first. This was unanimously approved by Cllrs.

WTC136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Received from Cllr K Hearne

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the apologies for absence as presented.

Cllrs J Packer and N Anderson were absent from the meeting.

WTC137 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS:

Received from Cllr Power, agenda item WTC141, *Member of Somerset Council Planning Committee*

Received from Cllr Waistell, agenda item WTC141, *Vested interest in planning application 24/03020/P3GPA*

WTC138 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES 16th DECEMBER 2024:

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes. Cllrs Smith, Old, Power and Howe abstained as absent from the meeting.

WTC142 FINANCE

- a) **To receive and sign the payments list dated 31st December 2024 for Unity Bank Current Account:** The payments list was received and signed by the Chairman. No queries raised.
- b) **To approve bank account reconciliations to 31st December 2024:** Bank account reconciliations were approved as presented.
- c) **To receive quarterly balance sheet dated 31st December 2024:** The balance sheet was received and noted. No queries raised.
- d) **To receive quarterly income and expenditure report dated 31st December 2024:** The income and expenditure report was received and noted. No queries raised.
- e) **To receive virement report and approve recommendations as presented:** The virement report was received and recommendations approved as presented.
- f) **To resolve to approve the budget for the 2025/2026 year:**
RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to set the 2025/2026 budget at £458,896.
- g) **To resolve to set the Precept for 2025/2026 year:**
RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to request a precept of £458,896 resulting in a Band D increase of 2.65% from £195.73 per annum to £200.92 per annum.

Action: 200125/2: Deputy Clerk/RFO

- h) **To consider proposed increase to South East Somerset Youth Contract:**
Cllrs considered the request to increase costs by the annual RPI of 3.4% from 1st April 2025. Cllrs raised concern regarding the amount of children within Wincanton benefitting from the project and lack of data and statistics received in reports. It was further mentioned that other Councils within the project appeared to be benefitting more than Wincanton. Council confirmed they are considering withdrawing from the project.
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to inform Youth Connect South West that presently the Council is not minded to approve the requested increase unless there is an improvement in service and youth attendance and that the Council is minded to withdraw from the contract from May should the position not improve with increased attendance and more in-depth reports with data and statistics. The Clerk was tasked with gaining feedback from other Councils involved in the contract.

Action: 200125/3: Town Clerk

i) **To Consider the Health and Safety Service proposal:**

Cllrs considered the Health and Safety Service proposal received and noted that it was covered within the 2025/26 budget. Cllr Waistell suggested another consultancy to request a proposal from.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed Cllrs are in favour of proceeding with a Health and Safety proposal within the agreed budget and for the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk to decide on which consultancy to proceed with.

Action 200215/4: Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk

j) **To note receipt of Earmarked Reserves document and comments:**

Cllrs reviewed the documents and comments within.

RESOLVED: The document was noted and it was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve all comments within.

The Deputy Clerk left the meeting at this point.

WTC139 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

- a. **The Town Mayor:** The Mayor reported since the last meeting he had attended the Silver Band carol concert, assisted the Chair of Personnel and attended the Personnel Committee meeting.
- b. **Somerset Councillors representing Wincanton on matters of interest to the town and the local community:** Cllr Trimnell provided information on the new Somerset Boundaries Review in readiness for the 2027 elections and confirmed a governance committee had submitted their suggestions to the boundary commission. Cllr Trimnell supplied information on new free Somerset Council webinars to assist with navigating the care system. Cllr Power stated he had nothing further to report following the written report circulated prior to the meeting.
- c. **Town Clerk:** No report received; however, the Clerk expressed her thanks to both staff and Cllrs for their work, help and support in her absence.
- d. **Local organisations, Town Councillor representatives, and partners:**
None received

WTC140 Action List

To note circulation of the Actions from Meeting list and discuss any matters arising:

Cllrs noted the list and the Clerk reported it required updating and this would be completed in due course.

WTC141 PLANNING

a) THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS WERE CONSIDERED:

Application Number	Address and description
24/02933/FUL	Flat 8 Churchfields House, Churchfield, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9AJ Replace a window with a door within an existing stone surround on the south elevation https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/02933/FUL
RESOLVED: It was resolved to support this application but to ask that although not material considerations the Planning Authority take into consideration the objections on the Somerset Council website. Cllr Power abstained.	
24/02491/OUT	The Paddocks, Verrington Lane, Charlton Musgrove, Wincanton, BA9 8BW Outline Application with some matters reserved except access for the Erection of 4no. dwellings and garages along with hard and soft landscaping and associated works https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/02491/OUT
RESOLVED: It was resolved to recommend refusal of this application on the grounds of the ill-conceived highways element as Verrington Lane is not suitable to make narrower. Cllr Power abstained from the vote.	
24/02969/DPO	Home Farm, Moor Lane, Wincanton Application to discharge planning obligations 1(A), (B) and (C), 2, 3 and 4(A) and (B) of the Section 52 Agreement dated 18th May 1987 pursuant to planning permission reference no. 48/86/2690 (alternative application no. 862690) dated 21st May 1987 between South Somerset District Council (1) Leslie John Kellaway and Shirley Elizabeth Kellaway and Elizabeth Lesley Kellaway (2) https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/02969/DPO
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to support and recommend approval of this application. Cllr Power abstained.	
24/02888/COU	Ground Floor Flat, 6 High Street Wincanton Somerset Change the use of the existing Ground Floor Flat from Class C3 (dwelling one bed flat) to Class E (Commercial, Business and Service) https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/02888/COU
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to support and recommend approval of this application. Cllr Power abstained.	
24/02889/LBC	Ground Floor Flat, 6 High Street, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9JP Change the use of the existing Ground Floor Flat from Class C3 (dwelling one bed flat) to Class E (Commercial, Business and Service) https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/02889/LBC
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to support and recommend approval of this application. Cllr Power abstained.	

24/03020/P3GPA (Notification Only)	Pine House, High Street, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9JF Prior approval for proposed Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service use (Class E) to mixed use including up to two flats (Class C3); Ground floor change of use to a Beer and Bottle Craft Bar and the use of First Floor Storage Area into a No. 3 Bed Flat. https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/03020/P3GPA
Noted	
24/02940/TPO (Notification Only)	10 Manor Gardens, Wincanton, Somerset Application to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 1 Tree as shown within the South Somerset District Council (WINC 1) 2002 Tree Preservation Order. https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/02940/TPO
Noted	

b) THE FOLLOWING RECENT PLANNING DECISIONS WERE NOTED:

Application Number	Address and description
24/02818/DOC1	New Barns Farm, West Hill, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9BU Discharge of Conditions No. 3 (Surfacing/Drainage) and No. 4 (Access) of Planning Application 23/01958/FUL. Decision: Conditions Discharged https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/02818/DOC1
24/02551/HOU	Springfield, Verrington Lane, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 8BN Proposed two storey side extension, front dormer and internal alterations. Decision: Application Permitted with Conditions https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/02551/HOU
24/02412/FUL	Land Rear Of 22 To 26 High Street, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9JF Change of use of land to community garden and siting of 2x studios, 1x WC, 1x storage container & 1x pavilion for community art project Decision: Application Permitted with Conditions https://ssdc.somerset.gov.uk/planningdocuments?ref_no=24/02412/FUL

WTC143 Pension re-enrolment

To resolve to approve the re-enrolment date as 1st June 2025:

RESOLVED: It was resolved and unanimously agreed to approve the Pension re-enrolment date as 1st June 2025.

WTC144 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE & VJ DAY EVENTS

To resolve to approve a budget for events for the 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ Day in 2025 and form a working group:

The Clerk confirmed that a budget of £2,000 had been set for the events. Cllr Old reminded all that a working group had already been formed consisting of Cllr Old, Cllr Ellard, Cllr Wing, Cllr Power, Cllr C Rodgers, the Clerk and Works and Maintenance Supervisor. The Clerk confirmed a meeting would be convened.

Action: 200125/5: Town Clerk

WTC145 TRAVELLERS

To consider methods to prevent traveller encampments moving into Cale Park this summer:

The Clerk suggested this be considered more in-depth at the upcoming Open Spaces Committee. Cllr Power suggested that members of Somerset Council's Community Scrutiny Committee be invited along with the police. It was agreed to defer this item to the Open Spaces Committee.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to defer this item to the Open Spaces Committee.

Action: 200125/6: Town Clerk

WTC146 BIKE RACK

To consider installation of a bike rack outside the Town Hall:

Cllr Ellard reported that the bike shop had requested a bike rack outside the Town Hall and had donated a bike rack. The Clerk confirmed consent would be required from Somerset Council Highways if placed on the pavement or Planning/Conservation if placed on the Town Hall.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to proceed with the placement of the bike rack outside the Town Hall and for the Clerk to establish correct permissions and agree position.

Action: 200125/7 Town Clerk

WTC147 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

a) To note the date of the next Open Spaces Committee meeting as Monday 3rd February:

The date of the next Open Spaces Committee was confirmed as Monday 3rd February.

b) To note draft minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting which took place on Monday 13th January and resolve to approve any recommendations:

The draft minutes were noted.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve recommendations within the draft minutes.

WTC148 WTC105 TRAINING, CONSULTATIONS, AND FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

- (i) **Correspondence:** Email from Somerset Council regarding Devolution
Noted
Email regarding Operation Tribute Poppy of Honour
Noted
Email from Avon and Somerset regarding security update
Noted
Email regarding Yeovil Hospital Acute Stroke Unit
Noted
- (ii) **Training:** SALC
- (iii) **Meetings:** South East Somerset LCN Wednesday 22nd January 2025

WTC149 CLOSE OF MEETING AND CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

The date of the next Full Town Council Meeting was confirmed as **Monday 24th February 2025 at 7.00pm**. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be submitted to the Clerk by **9.00am Friday 14th February 2025**.

The meeting closed at 8:08pm.