

**Minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee**

**held on Thursday 22 September 2022 @ 6.45pm**

**Present:** Cllr Irven, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Moss, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Westcott, and Cllr Whetlor

**In attendance:** Jo Grellier – Deputy Clerk

22/44B To receive apologies for absence: (LGA 1972, section 85 (1))  
Cllr Westcott proposed that **'apologies given by Cllr Campbell are accepted.'** Seconded by Cllr Murphy. Carried.

22/45B To receive any Declaration of Interests under Watchet Town Council's Code of Conduct (Adopted on 9 July 2012) issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 Si No: 1464

| Cllr/s       | Item no. (s)   | Personal or Personal & Prejudicial | Action taken  |
|--------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Cllr Johnson | 22/51B (i) Car park tenants                            | Personal                           | Cllr remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting         |
| Cllr Whetlor | Planning items – Member of the SW&T planning Committee | Personal                           | Cllr remained in the meeting but did not take part in the discussion and voting |

22/46B **To receive and sign the minutes of the previous Environment and Planning meeting** - (11 August 2022) and adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein. (LGA 1972, SCH12 Para 41 (1))  
Cllr Irven proposed that **'the minutes of the Environment & Planning meeting held on 11 August 2022 are a true and accurate record.'** Seconded by Cllr Moss. Carried.

22/47B **Cleeve Hill Development:**

(i) Update – *report to be tabled at the meeting*

Cllr Irven presented the tabled report. And highlighted the following points:

- On 13/9/22 I was contacted by the SW&T planning officer who asked me to organise a visit hosted by WTC to cover the following.
  1. The visit to be organised under WTC EH&S protocols providing a meeting room for discussion in the week of 26th Sept as the need was urgent.
  2. SW&T to bring their consultant from Fairhurst on land stability who wishes to view the WTC subsidence and that behind Lorna Doone adjacent to the proposed development.
  3. That our consultant Geckoella is available for consultations with their expert.
  4. Permit site visits to the WTC allotments, Lorna Doone, adjoining areas, and the Cleeve Hill site itself
  5. Return to WTC offices for review of findings.
- I was also asked to secure permission to access to a Lorna Doone property where the owner had previously made representations to SW&T about subsidence in objection to the application.
- Secondly, although unconnected with the land stability issue, I was asked to organise a visit with the owner of an adjacent field who is refusing to grant permission for footpaths to be re-sited.
- SW&T visit to our site to consider land stability issues provides us with an opportunity to review the evidence and our expert's opinion directly with the SW&T appointed external expert.
- In My absence, Cllr Murphy will deputise the visit, which is due to take place next week, along with the Deputy Clerk and Geckoella, as our geological consultants. A report will be produced to update the Committee at the October meeting.
- As the meeting is scheduled to last all day, SW&T has requested we provide a light lunch, this



- Geckoella have requested a further 7,5hrs consultancy time @£35.00 per hour on top of their original quotation for the commissioned drone survey data collection, totaling £262.50.
- The breakdown of costs currently spent under the traffic consultancy reserved budget is as follows:
 

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Ricard Fitter | £2,330  |
| Geckoella     | £3,555 (base survey)                          |
| Geckoella     | £210 (extra area B adjacent property surveys) |
| Geckoella     | £262.50 (extra consultancy fees)              |
| Lunch         | £36   |
| Total         | £6,393.50                                     |

Cllr Johnson proposed that **'members endorse the Clerks decision to pay the additional costs under the Traffic consultancy reserved budget, but if further meetings requested a contribution to the consultancy costs are negotiated with SW&T'**. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried with 1 abstention.

Members thanked Cllr Irven for organising the meeting.

22/48B **Traffic Evaluation Working Group:**

- (i) Update – Nothing to report

22/49B **Double Yellow line review:**

- (i) To address recent resident concerns regarding the need for double yellow lines Report and recommendation (Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via **Appendix 1**)

A resident letter of concern regarding the requirement for double yellow lines at the bottom on Causeway Terrace along South Road were discussed along with correspondence from Somerset County Council Traffic Management department who have informed Watchet Town Council that their intention is to send out for public consultation an Amendment Order towards the end of 2022.

A discussion between members ensued where other locations in need of double yellow lines were discussed. Cllr Westcott proposed that **'the Committee approve the recommendation that delegation is given to the Deputy Clerk to liaise with traffic management and respond to the resident concern regarding suggested areas for double yellow lines on South Road/Causeway Terrace junction, including Council recommendations for yellow lines to be added on the corner of Doniford Road, opposite the entrance to the Watchet Community Centre, and on the bridge on Mill Lane leading into Whitehall'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

22/50B **Anchor Street junction:**

- (i) Update – (Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via **Appendix 2**)

A report on the visibility concerns due to cars parked on double yellow lines on the Anchor Street/Swain Street junction where discussed. Cllr Irven proposed that **'the Deputy Clerk is delegated to add the refreshing of the double yellow lines on this junction to the Somerset County Council Traffic Order list mentioned in the previous item'**. Seconded by Cllr Murphy. Carried.

22/51B **Anchor Street Car park:**

- (i) Dog bin and recycling bin request - (Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via **Appendix 3**)

It was reported that there is a litter bin in situ in Anchor Street car park but not a dog waste or recycling bin. A discussion ensued with members. Cllr Murphy proposed that **'the recommendation from the Deputy Clerk with support from Cllr Whetlor to liaise with SW&T regarding the relocation of an Esplanade dog waste bin is approved with a slight amendment to suggest the current centrally located Esplanade dog waste bin is relocated rather than the Market Street end bin'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

22/51B **West Street Car Park/beach:**

- (i) Subsidence monitoring update and correspondence with SW&T – (Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via **Appendix 4**)

Cllr Irven presented a report of correspondence between the Deputy Clerk and SW&T following the Committee resolution to request SW&T install further warning signage on the West entrance to West Beach as recommended by Geckoella. A long discussing ensued. Cllr Irven proposed that **'the Deputy Clerk, with guidance from Cllr Murphy, respond to the SW&T programme manager following the meeting with the SW&T planning officer scheduled for next week'**. Seconded by Cllr Johnson. Carried with 1 abstention.

- 22/52B **Doniford Road speeding:**  
 (i) Resident concerns addressed – Update (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 5*)  
 Members noted the update. Cllr Murphy proposed that ***‘the Deputy Clerk presses the Avon & Somerset police ANPR technician further and express our disappointment in lack of action’***.  
 Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.
- 22/53B **Climate Change:**  
 (i) Electric vehicle charge points:  
 Email correspondence from the SW&T Project Delivery Officer for Climate Change was tabled at the meeting. The email was in response to a series of questions generated and sent to SW&T to gain a better understanding of the types of charging points available as part of the grant. A discussion ensued. Cllr Johnson proposed that ***‘the maximum bid for funding is made for Faster Charge units with a location to be confirmed’***. Seconded by Cllr Murphy. Carried.  
 (ii) Woodland Trust trees for Memorial Ground – Update T – (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 6*)  
 Cllr Johnson proposed that ***‘delegation is given to the Deputy Clerk to apply to the Woodland Trust for 30 free Copse trees to be delivered in March 2023’***. Seconded by Cllr Murphy. Carried.
- 22/54B To address items received from the planning authority requiring attention prior to the next Somerset West & Taunton / Somerset County Council / planning meetings: ***Nothing to report***
- 22/55B **Budget Update:**  
 (i) To note the budget spend to date- tabled at the meeting as **Appendix 7**  
 Cllr Murphy commented that it is likely there will be an overspend on the Street lighting budget and proposed that ***‘the Clerk review the electricity contracts if due for renewal and liaise with SALC with the support of Cllr Whetlor as SALC representative, to gain information on any financial support available to Parish/Town Council’s with the current increase in utility expenses’***.  
 Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

**Plans received for discussion**

- 3/37/22/013 **6 Wedlakes, Watchet, TA23 0JL**  
 Erection of a first-floor extension over existing garage – **The Committee has no objections**
- 22/56B **Matters for the next meeting** – verbal, no discussion  
 • Liaise with Deputy Clerk

*DJ*

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed..... *D J. Westcott* .....

Date..... *20.10.22* .....