

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 7 JULY 2025 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors A Govier, R Henley, M Lithgow, M McGuffie, S Mercer, S Pringle-Kosikowsky, J Thorne and K Wheatley

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow – Chief Executive
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
Sergeant Jon O'Connor, Wellington Community Policing Team (for minute 41)
Simon Collier – Representing Collier Planning
One member of the press
Nine members of the public

111. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

112. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Councillors C Booth, J Cole, S Fox & C Penk.

Councillor C Govier-Wiggins is still on approved maternity leave.

113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no additional interests other than those identified on the agenda.

114. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes the minutes of the Council Meeting on 2 June 2025.

115. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Three members of the public wanted to make comments in relation to Agenda Item 8 (minute 118 refers.)

The Chair confirmed that the planning application for this development has yet to be submitted and residents can submit concerns to Somerset County Council Portal once this has been done.

116. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sgt O'Connor presented his report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, which was noted.

Councillors thanked him and his team for all their hard work in policing the community.

Councillor R Henley requested that the police attend a follow-up meeting with residents living near St. Johns Primary School regarding parking in the area.

Sgt O'Connor left the meeting at this stage.

117. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

118. COLLIER PLANNING

Simon Collier discussed and presented the initial proposal of the development of two bungalows at the end of Corams Lane by the Basins.

Councillor J Thorne stated that he did not believe there was any public benefit from this development and would not be able to support such a development if it progressed to a formal planning application.

Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowsky noted that the main benefit of the area is the biodiversity of the area which would be impacted by any development on this land.

Simon Collier confirmed that the road off Corams Lane would remain a private road if the development was approved.

Councillor R Henley noted that these would be isolated developments. He confirmed that Somerset Council Planning Committee does not accept any applications for developments of less than ten houses so the decision will come to an Officer of Somerset Council.

Chair confirmed that any planning application would come to Wellington Town Council for noting and comments.

Simon Collier stated that a planning application should be expected soon.

Simon Collier left the meeting at this stage.

119. SOMERSET COUNCIL / LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

Councillors R Henley and A Govier provided an update.

Councillor R Henley confirmed that recent meetings of the LCN were held in June. A presentation on Open Spaces in Wellington was provided which was well received. There is currently an ongoing review of the LCN taking place by Somerset Council as to whether they should continue.

He also referenced discussions he had held at St Johns School regarding parking around the school and the risks of crossing roads near the school

Councillor R Henley also noted his disapproval of the most recent Boundary Commission draft proposals for Somerset. Councillor M McGuffie also raised concerns. The Chief Executive confirmed that these points have been raised in a previous meeting and a submission to the Boundary Commission has been made noting the Council's concerns

Councillor A Govier noted discussions regarding a speed limit change outside St. Johns School had taken place with the current plan to raise this with Somerset Council in September when the schools are open again. He said he would liaise with Councillor R Henley on this matter given his engagement with the school.

Councillor R Henley left the meeting at this time.

120. TO RECEIVE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

121. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2025 were noted and the following recommendations considered:

(i) Planning

That Planning Committee be disbanded with the following outcomes:

- i. All planning applications received for comment will be circulated to all councillors for comment.
- ii. A system is established through which councillors can request that planning applications be considered by Full Council.
- iii. Significant planning proposals (e.g. multiple residences, supermarkets) should be considered by Full Council as a matter of course and that a lead Councillor be appointed (It is recommended that this be Councillor J Lloyd) to work with the Chief Executive and/or the Finance Manager to manage the process.
- iv. A draft process/policy to be drawn up for consideration at the next Full Council meeting. (attached)

The Chief Executive agreed to investigate if specific planning applications on Somerset Council portal can be provided via a link and what arrangements could be put into place so that councillors can view other councillors' comments on planning applications.

Councillor M Lithgow wanted to note this move is a response to the changing methods of reviewing planning applications by Somerset Council and the need to work more efficiently.

Councillor J Thorne noted that each councillor should have the ability to request that a planning application is brought to Full Council instead of the proposed 5 councillors and that if a member of the public wanted an application considered by the Council, they should contact their local councillor who would request it was placed on the next agenda. It was also proposed that the arrangements should be kept under review.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations with the proposed changes.

(ii) Town Growth

A recommendation to employ a project manager for 12 months to review long-term development in Wellington.

The Chief Executive provided an update on this item which was noted by the Council. It was noted that Somerset Council is already undertaking this work and the Chief Executive recommends that Wellington Town Council should work alongside and combine resources with Somerset Council. This would also coincide with the development of a website that highlights all the development work being undertaken in Wellington over the next 15 years.

RESOLVED to reject the initial recommendation of the Policy and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED to approve the proposals in the paper submitted to the meeting by the Chief Executive Officer namely:

- (i) That he discusses with Somerset Council how Wellington Town Council resources could be used to support its work in developing the Local Plan for Wellington and report back to Policy and Finance Committee.
- (ii) The Chief Executive Officer investigate the development of a website and report back to the Policy and Finance Committee.

122. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2025 were noted and the following recommendation considered:

(i) Pulse Hub

That the revised site proposals be approved but to only have one pulse hub in the following location:

- Westpark – Budgens

Chief Executive confirmed that there are no proposed locations within Rockwell Green at this time.

RESOLVED to approve the recommended locations and ask for further work to be done in relation to a site in Rockwell Green.

(ii) Mayoral Events

That delegated power be given to the Mayor and Facilities Manager to oversee expenditure from Mayoral Event Budget £2,500.

RESOLVED to approve.

(iii) Budget Lines

- i. Pop Up Shop Overheads

That Line 118 – Overheads be renamed “Rates”, that the overspend is noted and approved and that a new line for utilities be created and that approval be given for appropriate spending.

RESOLVED to approve.

123. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on the 18 June were noted and the following recommendations considered:

(i) Basins Allotments – Accessible Plot CIL Funding

That £6,500 of CIL funding is allocated to complete the work on the Accessible Plot in the Basins Allotments.

RESOLVED to approve.

124. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Council confirmed membership of committees and address the vacancies:

- (i) Environment Committee – 3 vacancies – Current members: Councillors C Booth, M Lithgow, J Lloyd, M McGuffie and S Pringle-Kosikowsky.

RESOLVED to approve Councillor S Fox to join this committee.

- (ii) Economic Development Committee – 1 vacancy – Current members: Councillors C Booth, M Lithgow, J Lloyd, S Mercer, J Thorne, and K Wheatley

RESOLVED to approve Councillor C Penk to join this committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:40pm

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier

Councillor Marcus Barr

Councillor Ross Henley

Director of the Somerset Association of Local Councils

Councillor Janet Lloyd

Mayor

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO THE 4 AUGUST 2025 MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

1. Introduction

This report will update councillors on matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Other Matters

- Railway Station. Two meetings took place in July on this matter. On the 18 July councillors had been invited to join a Teams meeting with Somerset Council councillors and officers - three councillors and the Chief Executive joined the meeting. On the 24 July Councillor Lithgow represented the Council at the latest Metro Board meeting. The Government has announced that funding has been made available for the station project, along with Cullompton Station. Network Rail representatives advised the Metro Board meeting that funding had been allocated in line with the costings submitted in April 2024 and that they had been asked to validate these by 11 August. Network Rail is working on mobilising the project team, planning site visits, and conducting risk analysis to prepare for the project's next stages.
- The Kings Arms commenced some operations on the 29 July. It will be open Tuesday - Thursday through the summer with a range of providers making use of its facilities.
- We were delighted with the announcement in July that Wellington Park had been awarded Heritage Green Flag status for the tenth year running. The work required to achieve this should not be underestimated. The Park was not in a good condition when we took it on to the extent that the designation was at risk. The Open Spaces Team under the Open Spaces Manager's direction had only been in place two months when the inspection took place. The report noted that the Team 'has an affinity' with the Park and 'it is good to see that Wellington Park is in safe hands for the future with the Town Council'. Congratulations also to Swains Nature Reserve which also retained its Green Flag status.
- Britain in Bloom judging took place on the 24 July hosted by the Mayor and the Open Spaces manager. The day went well and we are hopeful of a positive outcome when the results are announced in October.
- Following the decision in relation to our approach to supporting the Wellington element of the Local Plan I have emailed the Head of Planning and Principal Planning Policy Officer asking for a meeting to discuss how we progress this and am waiting for a response.
- Work on repairing the roof and drainage at the Pavillion in The Rec has been completed by Somerset Council.
- Following concerns being raised about the inadequacy of the fencing between Fox's Field and The Mill site the matter was raised with both Somerset Council and the local policing team. Sergeant O'Connor has now written to the Mill site owner who is responsible for the security of the site asking him to make it secure as a matter of urgency.

3. Communications and Social Media

In the period from 30th June to 29th July 2025 our social media engagement has again seen a large increase. We have reached over 59k Facebook profiles and gained a net of 4 followers on this platform, bringing our total to 3,606.

Within the past month on Facebook we have had some very successful posts and were finally able to share the finished drone footage of the Green Corridor. We first published this with a link to the YouTube video and it received only a few watches but by posting the video as a Facebook reel we received 4.7k views and some very positive comments.

Our top 5 posts in this period have been:

1. Announcement of Wellington Park's Green Flag Heritage accreditation – 155 reactions, 6k reach
2. Open Spaces Team preparing town centre for In Bloom judging – 113 reactions, 12.k reach
3. Wellington Park Tree Trail – 112 reactions, 8.9k reach
4. Announcement of Swains Nature Reserve Green Flag accreditation – 74 reactions, 4.4k reach
5. Former Gay Close Play Area blooming with wildflowers – 67 reactions, 5k reach

As well as the above, we had a post reach over 30k profiles in early July. This was posted during the heatwave and was a chart that advised people of the differences between heat exhaustion and heart stroke. This post was shared over 100 times to community group pages in our surrounding area.

Our newsletter continues to be successful with a high open rate and 225 subscribers at the time of writing. In the August issue we will be sharing stories about the Green Flag award, Wellington in Bloom, and the soft opening of the Kings Arms Community Hub.

4. August Meetings/Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Who Involved
1 August	9.00am	Promotion of Wellington Working Group	Kings Arms	Group members
4 August	7.00pm	Full Council	URC Hall	All
11 August	6.00pm	Policy and Finance Committee	URC Hall	Committee members
13 August	11.00am	Whacky Wednesday	Wellington Park	All welcome
13 August	6.00pm	Economic Development Committee	URC Hall	Committee members
14 August	All day	A level results day	Everywhere	Anyone with a Year 13 child
14 August	2.30pm	LCN Highways Working Group	Nynehead Memorial Hall	Council reps
15 August	7.00pm	VJ Day Event	Wellington Park	Mayor/all
20 August	10.30am	Town and Parish Clerks Briefing	Virtual	Chief Executive
20 August	6.00pm	Environment Committee	URC Hall	Committee members
21 August	All day	GCSE Results Day	Everywhere	Anyone with a Year 11 child
27 August	11.00am	Whacky Wednesday	Wellington Park	All welcome
28 August	6.00pm	Playing Field Working Group	Chamber	Council reps

5. SLT Annual Leave

4 August – Democratic Services and Finance Manager

4 -11 August Community Development Officer

14 - 26 August Open Spaces Manager

18 – 22 August - Facilities Manager

22 – 29 August - Chief Executive

Dave Farrow

Chief Executive/Town Clerk

29 July 2025

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL POLICY & FINANCE
COMMITTEE MONDAY 14 JULY 2025 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor M Lithgow (Chair)
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, J Lloyd, C Penk, S Pringle-
Kosikowsky, J Thorne and K Wheatley

In attendance: Dave Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk
Alice Kendall – Finance Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
One member of the press
Four members of public.

125 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor A Govier.

126 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 Thorne has a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, being a friend of the company owner.

Councillor M Lithgow stated he is a member of the Rotary Society but not the Club which is associated with the 1st Wellington Scouts.

127 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All members of the public in attendance were from organisations that had submitted grant applications so it was decided by the Chair that if necessary, Standing Orders would be suspended for Agenda Item 6 (minute ref 130) to allow representatives to answer any questions.

128 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2025 after removing the word 'other' from line 3 of minute 69.

129 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

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

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation.

(b) TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR 4 JUNE – 7 JULY

RESOLVED to approve the expenditure after recoding vouchers 329 & 375 from Staff Travel & Councillor Travel respectively to Community Development as they relate to the Cradle to Career project.

(c) TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME RECEIVED 4 JUNE – 7 JULY

RESOLVED to approve the income.

(d) TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AGAINST THE BUDGET FOR THE 2025-26 YEAR AS AT 7 JULY

RESOLVED to note and approve the budget report.

130 25-26 GRANT APPLICATIONS Q2

To consider Q2 grant applications as received and detailed below. Applications will be circulated before the meeting.

- a) 1st Wellington Scout Group** – Up to £2,999 requested for replacement minibus.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow representative to field questions about application.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £2,500.

- b) Wellington Netball Club** – £900 requested for entering a senior team into Somerset County Netball League.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow representative to field questions about application.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £900.

- c) Wellington Youth Theatre** – £1,000 requested for increased provision for children and young people in Wellington.

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow representative to field questions about application.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £1,000.

- d) Welliestock** – £1,500 requested for refund of monies paid to Rugby Club for deposit and other items.

RESOLVED to refuse the grant as it is contrary to the Grant Policy, specifically items 3.3, 3.5 & 3.6 (related to securing funding for an

activity that has already taken place, not paying individuals and a commercial enterprise set up to generate profit).

131 LONGFORTH FARM ALLOTMENT LAND

RESOLVED to approve and sign the license as presented.

132 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Committee discussed the award scheme and the merits of applying.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that an application to register be submitted and that Officers will continue work towards the Gold accreditation.

133 WELLINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB PITCH HIRE FEES

A Paper was circulated with the agenda and noted by the Committee.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that:

- (i) Pitch hire fees remain at the current level.
- (ii) Delegated authority is given to Officers to set the terms and conditions for hire including items relating to booking procedures, cancellations, facility misuse and health and safety. The Council members of the Playing Pitch Working Group will review the final copy (Councillors A Govier and J Lloyd).
- (iii) That Officers conduct a broader review covering all aspects relating to pitch hire in readiness to review the fees in 12 months for the 26/27 season.

134 LICENCE FOR WORK ON TOWN COUNCIL LAND

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that:

- (i) It issues Licences to Wellington AFC to allow it to install new pitch surround fencing and replace the hard standing running the length of the Clubhouse/Dressing Rooms at The Playing Field using the Somerset Council template as a basis
- (ii) Future requests for licences for work are processed by The Chief Executive or other Officers in his absence.

There being no further business the meeting closed at: 19:20

Initial.....



**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY AND FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

MONDAY 14 JULY 2025

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to explain the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS), what are the benefits and which grade and criteria we currently meet.

2. Background

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) is a national accreditation framework that celebrates councils which demonstrate:

- Good governance
- Effective community engagement
- Strong financial management
- Commitment to continuous improvement

The idea is to:

- Give local people confidence in their council
- Provide councils with a benchmark for development
- Recognise and share best practice

There are three different awarding levels: **Bronze, Silver & Gold** (Previously these were Foundation, Quality & Gold).

3. Costs

There are fees at each level that a council wishes to apply for. A £50 + VAT registration fee is required regardless of the level applied for. The registration fee and below fees are halved if a member of NALC.

Award Level	Turnover ≤ £25k	Turnover > £25k
Registration (all)	£50 (+VAT)	£50 (+VAT)
Foundation / Bronze	£50 accreditation	£80 accreditation
Quality / Silver	£80 accreditation	£100 accreditation
Quality Gold	£100 accreditation	£200 accreditation

4. How Councils Qualify & Criteria

For each award level, councils must meet certain criteria grouped into:

Documentation and Information

- Having up-to-date policies (e.g., standing orders, financial regs)
- Maintaining a transparent website with required content
- Publishing annual reports, budgets, audit documents

Democratic Services

- Meeting standards for meetings, agendas, and minutes
- Holding the required number of meetings per year
- Promoting and demonstrating openness and accountability

Community Engagement and Improvement

- Showing how they engage and respond to residents
- Having action plans
- Demonstrating training and development for councillors and staff

Leadership in the Community (for Gold)

- Evidencing innovation, partnerships, and advocacy

Councils also must have:

- A qualified clerk (e.g., Certificate in Local Council Administration—CiLCA) for Silver and Gold
- A minimum percentage of councillors elected (not co-opted)

5. Benefits

- Recognition of high standards
- Improved credibility and trust within the community
- A framework for improvement and development
- Motivation for councillors and staff
- Ability to influence and lead other councils

6. Where we currently are

The appendix attached to this document demonstrates a mapping exercise which shows where we currently are in relation to the criteria for the different levels awarded by the scheme.

APPENDIX 1

	Complete						
BRONZE	Partially Complete						
Website requirements	Not Complete				Evidence required for Assessment Panel		
Link to guidance.							
Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors			Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors
Governance	Community	Development			Governance	Community	Development
Its standing orders	Council contact details				A risk management policy	Evidence of considering the impact of their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area	Disciplinary and grievance procedures
Its financial regulations	Councillor information, including registers of interests, in line with the Transparency Code				A register of assets		A policy for training and development of staff and councillors
Its Code of Conduct	Its action plan for the current year				Up-to-date insurance policies that mitigate risks to public money		A record of all training undertaken by staff and councillors in the last year
							The clerk who has achieved 12 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points in the last year
Its accessibility statement	Evidence of consulting the community						Signed up to the Civility & Respect Pledge, including adopting a Dignity at Work policy
Its publication scheme	Publicity advertising council activities						
Its complaints procedure	Evidence of participating in town and country planning						
Its privacy notice	Evidence of publicising elections and vacancies on the council						
Its last annual return							
Transparent information about council payments							
A calendar of all meetings including the annual meeting of electors							
Minutes for at least one year of full council meetings and all committee and sub-committee meetings							
Current agendas							
The budget and precept information for the current or next financial year							
It's biodiversity policy							

	Complete					
SILVER	Partially Complete					
Website requirements	Not Complete			Evidence required for Assessment Panel		
Link to guidance.						
Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors		Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors
Governance	Community	Development		Governance	Community	Development
A Health and Safety policy	A community engagement policy involving two-way communication between council and community			A scheme of delegation (where relevant)	At least two-thirds of its councillors who stood for election, or significant evidence of the council advertising vacancies	A qualified clerk
Its policy on equality	Councillor profiles				Evidence of a customer service in how the council handles correspondence with the public	A formal appraisal process for all staff
A co-option policy	A grant awarding policy					
	Evidence showing how electors contribute to the Annual Parish or Town Meeting					
	An action plan and related budget responding to community engagement and setting out a timetable for action and review					
	Evidence of community engagement, council activities and the promotion of democratic processes in an annual report that is actively shared with the community, online material and regular news bulletins					
	Evidence of helping the community plan for its future					
	Evidence of encouraging public engagement in local democracy					

	Complete						
GOLD	Partially Complete						
Website requirements	Not Complete				Evidence required for Assessment Panel		
Link to guidance.							
Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors			Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors
Governance	Community	Development			Governance	Community	Development
A business plan covering a financial forecast for at least three years linked to revenue and capital plans for the council and its community	An annual report, online material, news bulletins and other council communications with evidence of:				Ensures that the council delivers value for money	Provides leadership in planning for the future of the community	Manages the performance of staff and the council as a corporate body to achieve its business plan
	Engaging with diverse groups in the community using a variety of methods					Engages with the community on issues related to the environment and climate change	Supports a culture of civility and respect in the council
	Community engagement influencing council activity and priorities						
	A wide range of council activities, including innovative projects, that produce positive outcomes for the community						
	Co-operating constructively with other organisations						
	Active promotion of elections, including that at least two-thirds of its councillors stood for election						

APPENDIX 2 – Updates since last meeting.

1. Introduction

Since the Policy & Finance Committee held on Monday 14th July, I have since found more information on the process and the timelines that should be shared with Full Council.

2. Timelines

The last application round for 2025 will take place in September 2025. The table below explains the timelines for the whole process.

DEADLINES	DATES
Deadline for applications	05/09/2025
Deadline for NALC to provide triage feedback to parish or town councils	26/09/2025
Deadline for parish or town councils to respond to triage feedback	10/10/2025
Deadline for applications to be sent to panel	17/10/2025
Deadline for panel results	12/12/2025

3. Taunton Town Council

I have since found a more updated list of accredited councils; the table below lists all of those in Somerset and their score. Of note is Taunton Town Council who achieved Silver in January 2025. I watched the Full Council meeting (10/09/2024) where this was discussed and they stated that they did not think they were ready for Gold accreditation and therefore would be applying for Silver. Given that they were successful and have now achieved Silver accreditation, they will be working towards Gold.

Name of Council	Score
Crewkerne	Silver
Cheddar	Bronze
Frome	Gold
Milborne Port	Bronze
Taunton	Silver
Trull	Bronze

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MONDAY 4 AUGUST**

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME – APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2 – Updates since last meeting.

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Deadline for panel results	12/12/2025

3. Other accredited councils in Somerset - Taunton Town Council

I have since found a more updated list of accredited councils; the table below lists all of those in Somerset and their score.

Name of Council	Score
Crewkerne	Silver
Cheddar	Bronze
Frome	Gold
Milborne Port	Bronze
Taunton	Silver
Trull	Bronze

Of note is Taunton Town Council who achieved Silver in January 2025. I watched the Full Council meeting (10/09/2024 – can be found on YouTube) where this was discussed and they stated that they did not think they were ready for Gold accreditation and therefore would be applying for Silver with the view to eventually work towards Gold. Given that they were successful and have now achieved Silver accreditation, it could be assumed they are now working towards Gold accreditation.



Wellington Town Council
28-30 Fore Street
Wellington
Somerset
TA21 8AQ

Enter Date Here

Enter Address Here

Dear Sirs/Madam,

Dear Sirs,

Licence to Enter and Undertake Works on Land at [Site Address or Description]

Wellington Town Council has agreed to grant you and your appointed contractor a licence to access the land shown on the attached plan on the conditions below. This licence is granted solely to allow you access to the land to carry out the works specified below.

This licence does not confer exclusive occupation or create a tenancy.

The authorised works comprise and are limited to:

- [Description of authorised works, e.g., “installation of replacement floodlighting as approved by Planning Consent reference [number]”]

Terms of Licence

1. Term

The licence is granted for a period of [e.g., 6 months] commencing on [start date] or until completion of the works, whichever is earlier.

2. Licence Fee

No licence fee shall be charged. *(or state agreed fee if applicable)*

3. Insurance and Indemnity

- You will be responsible for maintaining public liability insurance to a minimum cover of £[amount] for any single claim.
- You will indemnify Wellington Town Council against all losses, claims, demands, actions, proceedings, damages, costs, expenses or other liabilities arising from the works or your occupation of the land.

4. Standards and Conduct of Works

- All works must be carried out in a proper manner that complies with all relevant Health and Safety legislation and ensures the protection of the public and other users of the land.
- You must minimise any disruption or inconvenience.

5. Ongoing Maintenance

- You agree that any equipment installed will be maintained by [Licensee] at your own expense.
- You will be responsible for any future repair, maintenance or removal costs.

6. Completion

- Upon completion, you must make good any damage to the land to the satisfaction of Wellington Town Council.

Please confirm acceptance of these terms by signing and returning a copy of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

[Name]

[Position]

Wellington Town Council

[Email / Phone]

I confirm acceptance of the terms of this licence:

Signed on behalf of [Licensee Name]:

Authorised Signatory

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

Attachments:

- Plan identifying the licensed area
- Copy of any relevant planning consent



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MONDAY 4 AUGUST 2025

PITCH HIRE FEES UPDATED

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to review and recommend the fees for the playing pitches which were transferred to the Town Council under the devolution of assets and services from Somerset Council.
- 1.2. As the transfer of these assets fell while the football season was still active, it was agreed internally that Somerset Council should continue to administer the pitch bookings until the 24/25 season ended and the Town Council will receive the fees. Wellington Town Council will now administer all pitch bookings.
- 1.3. A version of this paper was initially presented to the Policy & Finance Committee who made a related recommendation, however, the information provided by Somerset Council was inaccurate and the charge tables require updating.
- 1.4. Pitch layout plans are detailed in Appendix 1.

2. Past charges made by Somerset Council

- 2.1. The table below indicates the charges made to hirers based on the size of the pitch as presented in the original paper. However, these were inclusive VAT.

Size	23/24 Charge	24/25 Charge (9% uplift)	Charge (as previously presented)
11v11	£52.82	£57.57	£69.08
9x9	£28.51	£31.07	£37.29
7x7	£28.51	£31.07	£37.29
5x5	£28.51	£31.07	£37.29

- 2.2. Somerset Council provided the pitches at these costs which were subsidised rates agreed by Somerset Council Officers. It is not clear how much subsidy was given.
- 2.3. Following correspondence with the Football Club, it is apparent that Somerset Council have been charging at an old rate (to which a 9% increase was added for 24/25).

3. VAT

- 3.1. As the Town Council are not VAT registered, it cannot charge the VAT element on these fees. This position is likely to change in the future, however.
- 3.2. Officers have since been made aware that because the Football Club are VAT registered, and therefore the charges as previously considered would, in real terms, equate to an increase of 30% as they would no longer be able include the VAT element in their return to HMRC.
- 3.3. It should be noted that setting the charges exclusive of VAT will minimise the impact on the Football Club. However, there is likely to be a real term decrease for other users who may further face a 20% increase should the Council become VAT registered in future.

4. Cost Considerations and Income and Expenditure Comparisons

- 4.1. Council Officers have calculated the projected cost to the Council based on each pitch size per use. These costs relate to the grounds maintenance of the pitch only.

These costs include allowances for grass cutting (staff time and consumables), overlining (staff time and consumables), post-match checks as required and an amount for annual maintenance such as re-seeding/goal mouth works, initial lining preparations and goal post maintenance. There is very little difference in working times and consumables for the smaller pitches.

The costs below assumes that a pitch is booked every other week over the season (22 times).

Size	Estimated Cost
11v11	£58.28
9x9	£49.21
7x7	£49.21
5x5	£49.21

5. Income vs Expenditure

5.1. This section provides comparable information on charges vs costings and options for increases.

5.1.1. It was previously recommended that Hire Charges remain at the 24/25 level.

Size	As previously Presented	Charge Ex VAT
11v11	£69.08	£57.57
9x9	£37.29	£31.07
7x7	£37.29	£31.07
5x5	£37.29	£31.07
Anticipated Income	£6,952	£5,793
Anticipated Expenditure	£7,026	£7,026
Balance	(£74)	(£1,233)

5.2. Around 80-5% of the anticipated expenditure costs are already included in the 25/26 budget. No income budget was set as at the time of budget setting, this relevant information from Somerset Council was not available. Therefore, the majority of the costs have already been met by the Precept.

6. Recommendation

6.1. It is recommended that the recommendation from Policy & Finance be disregarded and that the charges be set at the same rate for 24/25 **ex VAT**.

7. Other considerations

7.1. It was noted by the Policy & Finance Committee:

7.1.1. That the charges set are for all users and are not specific to the Football Club.

7.1.2. That, at present, a pitch booking includes use of changing rooms but costs related to utilities are not included in the details above because usage information is not yet clear. However, these costs are included in the 25/26 budget.

7.1.3. That Officers will undertake a broader review over the 25/26 Season so that charges can be reviewed appropriately next year.

Alice Kendall
Democratic Services & Finance Manager
July 2025

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 21 JULY 2025 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor A Govier (Chair)
Councillors J Cole, M McGuffie, M Lithgow

In attendance: Dave Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
Laura Batcha – Community Development Officer
Peter Joint – Community Connect Champion
Councillor J Thorne
Claire Care – Representative of Reminiscence Learning
One member of the press

135 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect A Govier as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

136 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect C Govier-Wilkins as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

137 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Councillors C Govier-Wiggins, C Penk and J Lloyd.

138 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Govier declared an interest in relation to Cradle to Career which is a model currently being implemented by his employer, Court Fields Community School. There are no recommendations or decisions to be made in this meeting regarding this so no further action beyond noting is required.

139 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of public in attendance.

At this juncture, it was **RESOLVED** to move agenda item 10 forward.

140 REMINISCENCE LEARNING

Community Development Officer provided an update on Reminiscence Learning.

Claire Care from Reminiscence Learning spoke about her role within the organisation and how she will be based in the Kings Arms Community Hub on a one day a week basis. She also confirmed that she will request a detailed breakdown on what support will be provided to Wellington residents and what the cost to the council will be. The Community Development Officer will also liaise with Reminiscence Learning regarding this.

Further, she stated that recently she had attended a conference regarding a research project based at Bath Spa University on what are the key characteristics of dementia inclusive community and will be looking on how some of these can be implemented for Wellington.

141 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve minutes of Community Committee meeting held 28 April 2025.

142 KINGS ARMS COMMUNITY HUB

- (i) The Committee reviewed and noted the update from the Project Officer.
- (ii) Operational Budget and overspend arrangements.

RESOLVED to approve the budget as set out in the supporting paper and give officers delegated authority to spend against the line as detailed.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that Officers can overspend the budget for the sole purpose of covering essential costs such as utility bills and service charges.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the 12-month warranty cost of £4,800 should be sourced from the revenue budget line, rather than the set-up costs, noting that this would cause an additional overspend.

- (iii) To approve draft User Agreement.

Councillors agreed to amend the Charges and Donations section to confirm that Wellington Town Council reserves the right to request that venue hire costs be covered by users if the organiser is charging attendees or if they are in receipt of grant funding for the service or activity they are providing.

In addition to this, it should also state that any changes to contributions and future fees will be implemented and charged in April 2026.

RESOLVED to approve amended User Agreement.

- (iv) To approve draft Volunteer Agreement.

Councillors discussed if the agreement contained enough detail on the legal requirements of health and safety at the Kings Arms Community Hub.

Community Development officer confirmed that inductions will happen for all groups using the hub which will go into detail health and safety requirements and considerations.

RESOLVED to approve the Volunteer Agreement.

- (v) To consider the draft Vision, Mission & Priorities.

Councillors agreed to re-word phrase “one stop shop” to ensure clarity that Kings Arms Community Hub will also provide signposting for all the needs of the community.

RESOLVED to approve amended document.

143 COMMUNITY CONNECT CHAMPION UPDATE

Community Connect Champion provided an update on the following:

- (i) Cradle to career

Community Development Officer will forward the threads of this initiative to councillors.

- (ii) One Team
- (iii) Children & Young People Forum
- (iv) PFSA

These updates were all noted by the committee.

Councillors agreed that there is a need for budgetary considerations for any planned evening sessions of the Kings Arms Community Hub and that greater publicity of what is offered is required to ensure that more residents of Wellington are aware.

144 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Community Development Officer provided an update on the following:

- (i) Community Development Plan progress

Community Development Officer will forward the themes within this plan to all Wellington Town Councillors for viewing and comment.

- (ii) Budget Update

RESOLVED to approve £750 for summer engagement programme requirements.

- (iii) Council use of the Place Standard Tool

Committee agreed that this is a useful tool and the usage of it should continue however it should not be overly relied upon.

- (iv) Approve Engagement Programme for Summer.

Councillors agreed that the Community Development Officer has the expertise to determine the best methods to measure and determine what the community needs should be for the Kings Arms Community Hub.

RESOLVED to approve Engagement Programme for Summer in whatever form the Community Development Officer deems to be the most effective.

145 EMERGENCY PLAN

Committee noted the update provided.

RESOLVED to approve formation of a working group with a delegated budget of £460.

146 ACCELARATED REFORM FUNDING

Councillors agreed that the application should be tailored to ensure maximum possibility of a successful application.

RESOLVED to approve that the Community Development Officer apply for this funding.

147 BUDGET REPORT

Budget was noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at: 19:30

Initial.....



Meeting	Community
Date of meeting	21 July 2025
Action Required	Decision required
Report Author and email address	Pete Joint, Community Connect Champion peter@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

1.1. The purpose of this report is to update the committee on current anticipated spend against the allocated operational budget to the end of the current financial year. The Committee's approval is required to allow spending from this budget. A recommendation to Full Council for probable overspends in order to ensure that essential costs are paid is also required.

2. Background

2.1 When setting the 2025/26 budget for the Kings Arms, the operational costs were unknown so a budget of £18,000 was set to account for £10,000 rental/lease costs and an element of funding for utilities.

2.2 As we get closer to opening, costs are becoming clearer and it is apparent that the £18,000 will not be sufficient to meet all costs.

2.3 As things stand the current estimated costs for August 25 – March 26 are as follows:

Item	Cost	Budget
Budget		£18,000
Rent	£10,000	
Cleaning	£4,200	
Broadband	£1,600	
Rubbish Collections	£200	
Responsive Maintenance	£500	

Proportion of booking system	£550	
Surplus	£950	
Total	£18,000	£18,000

2.4 The above does not include an element for utilities or any service charge that Falcon Rural Housing may levy as part of the lease arrangements. This is still being calculated by them.

2.5 Because it is estimated that up to 25 people will likely want to connect to the Wi-Fi at any given time, it has proven difficult to obtain a connection with enough line speed and bandwidth. Initial quotations direct with BT were in the region of £700 per month. MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, has been able to source a part fibre line as well as a Starlink satellite connection for £200 per month. The Starlink connection will provide an additional connection for load spreading of bandwidth as well as a fall back connection should there be a power cut or fault on the traditional line. Using MTMIT to administer the line provides Officers with a guaranteed contact should problems arise which also leads into the 12 months service and support plan paid upfront as part of the set up costs.

3. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

- Council Vision - An inclusive, safe and secure town where everybody is supportive of each other and offers particular care for the more vulnerable members of our community
- Wellington Place Plan - Inclusive Access and Connected Communities, Youth, Learning & Lifelong Support

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The Kings Arms Budget will be overspent at the end of this financial year given the costs that need to be met from it.

5. Risks

5.1 If it is not agreed to allow officers to overspend the budget the risk is that utility bills will not be paid and the Hub will not be able to function and we may be in breach of the Tenancy Agreement.

6. Considerations

The Committee is asked to

- (i) Approve the budget as set out above and give officers delegated authority to spend against the line as detailed, and
- (ii) Recommended to Full Council that Officers can overspend the budget for the sole purpose of covering essential costs such as utility bills and service charges.

Wellington Garden of Light – Saturday 25th October 2025**Agenda item 2.ii****Ticket Options:**

1. Asking for donations: 'Pay What You Choose', will help keep the event free to local residents. See suggested wording below. Fuse have achieved Arts Council funding to support the event with a community engagement programme and with Wellington Town Council funding we will be able to make the event free and ask for donations or similar wording 'Pay What You Choose'. If there are funds from the event, this can contribute to the event costs going forward in 2026.
2. Ticket fixed charge: £3 adult £1.50 child. If we have paid for tickets this means people will commit to coming to the event. Wellington film festival provided free tickets and there were issues with low attendance at some events and people not being able to access tickets as they had already been booked. If the event raises funds, this can be contributed to the event in 2026. We have noticed for similar outdoor arts events if people book free tickets, they may not necessarily attend the event and attendance can be low.
3. Fuse Outdoor Arts would like Wellington Garden of Light to be an annual event or biannual event in Wellington. FUSE outdoor arts organise events for the public to attend for free if funding allows or low cost tickets to keep the event accessible.

Wording for 'Pay What You Choose' donation

1. The event is free and we ask 'Pay What You Choose' If you are able to offer a donation we would be very grateful. We understand not everyone is in the same financial position, so please pay what you feel you can. We believe in creating accessible outdoor arts events for all and are grateful to our funders and partners who support us to make these community workshops and events happen.

OR

2. This event operates on a 'Pay What You Choose' donation basis.

We know that everyone's circumstances are different, so please contribute what you feel comfortable with. Thank you to the generous support of our funders and partners, we're able to keep these creative outdoor arts experiences free and open to all. Your donation, whatever the amount, helps us continue bringing communities together.

The preference is to try a 'Pay What You Choose' donation for tickets. Tickets help us to control numbers and similar organisations have been successful with this option 'Pay What You Choose' donation and this would help support funding for Wellington Garden of Light in 2026.

Event Working Group to consider making a recommendation to full council .

Agenda item 2.iii:

Wellington Town Council Budget - £8,000

Event Working Group to consider making a recommendation to Full Council to approve the release of 75% of funds £6,000 in August with 25% funds £2,000 on completion of the event. See appendix A – Wellington Garden of Light Cost Schedule.



Wellington Garden of Light

The budget below reflects the cost of the event and are needed to create, manage and produce the Wellington Garden of Light. We would like to request 75% funds £6000 from Wellington Town Council in August and 25% funds £2000 on completion of the event. This will help towards the running costs, production and operations of the event.

Income

Wellington Town Council	£8000	
Arts Council England	£7046	
Fuse Support in Kind	£3400	
Total		£18446

Expenses

Production Management	£ 2433	
Production management team, lighting design, dramaturg, materials-performance-costume/Make up.		
Production Operations	£ 3045	
Production Team, Generators, Travel, Event Paramedics, Security, Volunteer expenses, Toilets, Phone, Office, Evaluation.		
Production Infrastructure (provided by Fuse)	£ 3400	
Lighting, PA/Speakers/Décor/Overheads/Rigs/Fire equipment		
Artistic Creative	£ 4033	
Fire Garden, Aerial, Storytelling, Film projection, Music, Fire/Light Performances		
W/shops and Materials	£ 3235	
Wellington—4 schools; Courtfields, Rockwell Green, Beechgrove, St Johns Primary School. Community workshop – Wellington Community Centre		
Marketing	£ 2300	
Asset Design, posters, leaflets, banners, social media		
Total		£18446

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
EVENTS WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 28 FORE STREET, WELLINGTON TA21 8AQ.
ON MONDAY 28TH JULY 2025 AT 7.15 PM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors C Booth (CB) J. Lloyd (JL)
Annette Kirk, Facilities Manager (AK)
Councillor J Thorne (JT) Councillor M McGuffie (MM)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor C Govier-Wiggins

2. GARDEN OF LIGHT – Saturday 25th October 2025

- i. Event Management Plan was discussed by the Events Working Group (EWG) and were happy with progress. JL asked where we were going to recruit volunteers. AK advised that we were going to ask both Rotary Clubs in Wellington and other community groups to see if they had any members who would volunteer to help at the event.
- ii. Ticket Costs – The EWG agreed a charge needed to be made to help control numbers. The working group agreed on asking for a donation option, with a suggested donation of £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children.

The EWG did not feel the Town Council could commit to holding the “Wellington Garden of Light” event annually or biannually until the completion of this year’s event. It was agreed that any profit from the event to be ring fenced for future Town Council events.

RECOMMENDATION to Full Council to approve ticket charges being a donation, with a suggested donation of £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children. To amend the wording from “Pay What you Choose” to “Pay What You Can.”

- iii. Event Budget £8,000. Fuse Somerset Arts requested 75% funds £6,000 from Wellington Town Council in August and 25% funds on completion of the event. This will help towards the running costs, production, and operations of the event.

RECOMMENDATION to Full Council to approve the release of 75% funds £6,000 from Wellington Town Council Event Budget £8,000 and 25% funds on completion of the event. Any ticket sale profits to be ring fenced to go towards planned Town Council events in the future.

3. VJ DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY – Friday 15th August 2025

- a) AK gave the EWG an update and confirmed the format will be:

Event Time – 7pm to 10pm

7.15pm – Wellington Silver Band

8.15pm – Ian Jones (Singer)

9.15pm – Beacon Lighting and Tribute by the Mayor and Town Crier

- A new “Wellington Town Council” band for the gas beacon was currently being made at a fabrication company in Langport.
- “Buzzing Bee-ns” Coffee Van to provide refreshments.
- National 2 minute silence at 12 noon on 15th August 2025. To congregate on the corner of Fore Street/South Street.

- b) MM asked EWG for their views allowing him to hold an exhibition about the UN disarmament process in the pop-up shop. After much discussion it was decided not to take any further action.

4. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT – Saturday 29th November 2025

- i. AK gave an event update.
- ii. 3k and 5k Santa Fun run was discussed. EWG asked AK to get more information from the Junior Park Run organisers and bring it to the next meeting.
- iii. Free Parking Fees of £4435 +VAT from Somerset Council was discussed.

RECOMMENDATION to Economic Development to approve £4435 plus VAT for free parking on:

Saturday 29th November 2025 – Christmas Light Switch On.

Saturday 6th, 13th, and 20th December 2025

5. WELLINGTON DAY

- i. Public Survey results were discussed at length. 201 responses received, with Family Activity Day coming out on top with the Medieval Themed event in second place.
- ii. JT asked that the event was held on or around 16th August. On the 16th of August 1215 it is believed the Royal Charter gave Wellington its market town status.
- iii. Wellington Recreation Ground being the most suitable location to hold the event.

RECOMMENDATION to Economic Development Committee to approve holding “Wellington Day” annually on the nearest Saturday to the 16th of August to commence in the 2027/2028 financial year. The event theme will be a “Family Activity Day.” Council Officers to work on event details and costings which will be useful for when the Town Council need to approve the budget.

6. OTHER EVENTS

Remembrance Parade - Sunday 9th November 2025

Remembrance Armistice Day - Tuesday 11th November 2025

7. OTHER IDEAS

- JUMBLE TRAIL – West Somerset Welcome Hub, Watchet held this event at Easter and now holding a second event on the August Bank Holiday weekend. They said it was a positive way to celebrate a local community and recycling.
The EWG discussed holding an event in Wellington on one day of the two May Bank Holidays in 2026. Date to be confirmed. It was agreed to include the event when setting the event budgets for 2026/2027.

8. BUDGET SETTING FOR 2026/2027

AK asked the EWG to start thinking about what events they wanted to hold in 2026/2027 financial year.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To be confirmed.

Community hospital beds could be closed or relocated

22ND JULY

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By Daniel Mumby
Local Democracy Reporter
[@DanielMumby](#)

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Beds at Somerset's community hospitals could be closed or relocated under planned changes to treat more people closer to home.

The Somerset NHS Foundation Trust operates 13 inpatient wards across its 11 community hospitals, located in Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea, Chard, Crewkerne, Frome, Glastonbury, **Minehead**, Shepton Mallet, South Petherton, **Wellington**, Williton and Wincanton.

Following the publication of the government's ten-year plan for the NHS, the trust is consulting on proposals to close, relocate or re-purpose inpatient beds, with more emphasis being placed on "pathway beds" to get patients out of acute hospitals and being able to receive further treatment at home.



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Somerset Council's adults and health scrutiny committee is expected to discuss the plans in detail in the coming weeks, with its vice-chair criticising the trust for acting "without transparency or engagement".

The trust said it was happy to co-operate with the council and that no final decision on any bed closures had yet been made.

At Bridgwater, the trust plans to increase the number of "pathway care" beds to 36, with a further nine beds being "re-purposed".

West Mendip Community Hospital in Glastonbury will see 20 beds converted for pathway use, with South Petherton also seeing 20 beds "transitioned" to this role.

Williton will retain 20 beds for pathway use, while Chard and Wellington will both see "temporary reductions before final changes" are implemented.

Councillor Claire Sully, the vice-chair of the council's adults and health scrutiny committee, has called for an urgent meeting to discuss the changes before final decisions are taken in the autumn.

She said: "Residents and Somerset Council have yet to see the full business case behind these plans.

"The trust is sharing this information only internally with staff, in order to change employment contracts, without transparency or engagement with the wider community.

"This lack of openness raises serious concerns about the impacts of these changes - especially as they seem to be permanent reductions in hospital beds and services for our local communities."

The trust had previously indicated that it would be reducing beds at Frome Community Hospital, with **similar reports recently surfacing about Crewkerne's facilities.**

Ms Sully's Mendip South division comprises numerous villages within a short drive of the community hospitals in Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet.

She continued: "While the trust cites shifting demand, with more care being delivered at home, the full details of the rationale and planning remain hidden from public view.

"Many residents are alarmed that these are not just short-term testing or trial ideas but potentially permanent changes, with staff contracts already being prepared for a future where roles, working areas and beds are cut long-term.

"This raises questions about community involvement, care quality, and the criteria being used to make such significant decisions."

"I believe decisive action must be taken now to avoid rushing through changes without proper oversight or community input."

The Somerset NHS Foundation Trust said it was happy to discuss the changes with councillors and would publish details of the summer-long public consultation in the coming weeks.

A spokesperson said: "We look forward to meeting with colleagues on the adults and health scrutiny committee to discuss how we can improve care and access for patients in Somerset.

"The NHS ten-year plan provides us with real opportunities to shift care appropriately into communities and improve the care and experience of patients.

"No decisions have been made to permanently close any community hospital beds.

"We are increasing investment in community services and care home beds, and temporarily reducing the number of community hospital beds in some areas.

"We want to test whether these temporary changes will decrease the number of patients whose discharge from an acute hospital is delayed, decrease the time patients currently wait for community services following an acute hospital stay, increase the proportion of patients who are discharged from an acute hospital to their own home and able to remain at home, and improve flow through our acute hospitals."

SOMERSET NHS FOUNDATION TRUST SOMERSET COUNCIL HEALTH BURNHAM-ON-SEA FROME GLASTONBURY MINEHEAD
SHEPTON MALLETT SOMERSET WELLINGTON

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Schedule No	Date Received	App No	Description	Comment Length (days)	Comment Deadline	Officer Comments	Lead Councillor Comments
1	21/07/2025	43/25/0026	Demolition and replacement of 3 No. commercial buildings subdivided into 7 No. units at Cox's Yard, Taunton Road, Wellington	21	11/08/2025	To go on Full Council	Although this development will "tidy up" this practically derelict site, there are concerns regarding access especially from the north of the site which is within a 40mph. The Transport Statement goes some way to alleviating concerns by describing visibility splays. No comments from the Highway Authority as of yet, but no surprise there.