

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor A Govier (Chair)
Councillors C Govier-Wiggins, 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
Michelle Brooks – Representative of Somerset Council LCN
(For minute 223)
Nick Harvey – Representative of In The Mix (For minutes 221 & 222)
Councillor J Thorne
One member of the press
One member of the public

214 CHAIR TO WELCOME MEMBERS

Chair welcomed members to the committee.

215 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Councillor J Lloyd.

216 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors A Govier & M Lithgow declared an interest relating to items 221 and 222 due to their roles as Wellington Community Support Services Director (WCSS).

217 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

218 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held 21 July 2025.

219 COMMUNITY CONNECT CHAMPION

An update was provided by Pete Joint (Community Connect Champion) which was noted.

He advised that the Young Persons Independent Advisory Group which was established in Wellington a year ago will attend the County Police Independent Advisory Group meeting on the 16 September to update on their activities.

He also confirmed that requests for One Team funding to cover over 2 years have been made to Somerset Council.

220 KINGS ARMS COMMUNITY HUB

An update on the following was provided:

i) Health & Safety at Kings Arms Community Hub

The Chief Executive confirmed that the soft opening of the Kings Arms Community Hub has allowed us to stress test the health and safety protocols that were in place. In addition to this, WT Consultancy have carried out a review of the area with a raft of recommendations.

WT Consultancy was made aware that WTC will offer the Kings Arms Community Hub as a venue to host events and organisations using it will be responsible for their own H&S assessments and associated actions as per the User Agreement.

ii) SALC 6-month report

A structure for the report has been made to ensure that data is collated accurately.

- (i) To consider a request to allocate additional funds to the operational budget for additional engagement events.

RESOLVED to approve release of funds (£950) for the use of engagement events.

iii) Youth Drop in Feedback

At this juncture, it was **RESOLVED** to bring forward agenda Item 12 (Youth Service Delivery Report) and Item 13 (Youth Delivery October Half-Term)

221 YOUTH SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

Nick Harvey from In the Mix project (ITMP) provided an update on the detached youth provision provided by them this summer. He noted the differences between detached provision and provision that is delivered in a specific location stating that, if approved for delivery at Kings Arms Community Hub, then attendees would be registered with ITMP which will allow for the formation of an accurate data set which could be used to determine trends and impact.

The Chair raised the importance of a closer relationship with Court Fields Community School which will assist with the development of a well-rounded youth provision in Wellington.

RESOLVED to approve the proposal for youth provision delivery by ITMP with costs allocated from the Wellington Community Support Services (WCSS) budget.

RESOLVED to approve Council Officers exploring additional long-term funding options to supplement and sustain youth provision.

222 YOUTH DELIVERY – OCTOBER HALF-TERM

The report was noted.

RESOLVED to approve the delivery of youth provision during October half-term at a cost of £1,576 from the Wellington Community Support Services (WCSS) budget.

It was **AGREED** that Council Officers should set up paperwork for delegation of authority which will set a monetary limit for what Council Officers can spend without needing to come to the Committee for approval.

At this juncture, it was **RESOLVED** to bring forward agenda item 11 (Together in Tone Bid)

223 TOGETHER IN TONE BID

Michelle Brooks stated how Together in Tone is a community music and wellbeing project that brings together choirs, musicians, and residents from across multiple parishes to co-create and perform original music. The project aims to reduce isolation, celebrate local identity, and strengthen connections through shared musical experiences. It is an intergenerational project that will make meaningful difference to the wider community.

Laura Batcha confirmed that this project involves no WTC funding and funding will come solely from SALC.

Councillor Cole questioned whether the project should be managed by staff responsible for running events rather than the Community Development Officer.

Council Officers will ensure that the workload related to the project is allocated in the most appropriate manner.

RESOLVED to approve request to apply for SALC funding for this project.

224 ACCELERATED REFORM FUND UPDATE

The Accelerated Reform Fund bid was discussed and noted by the Committee.

After much discussion, it was confirmed that fixed-term contracts within the Community sector are commonplace and that it would not be assumed that a fixed-term contract will automatically evolve into a full-time permanent contract.

It was agreed that the targets for success need to be clearly defined and an analysis on the impact of the role should take place before the end of the fixed-term contract.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that £10,700 be allocated upon a successful bid application.

An error in the business plan was noted. 8c Appendix 3 Wellington Connect (working title) Business Plan - section 4 Key Deliverables and Milestones amended to say Jan-March 2026 instead of 2025 in the quarter one.

225 SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Committee considered the report circulated prior to the meeting which contained the proposed revised changes to the Safeguarding Policy.

It was **AGREED** that Council Officers should investigate the viability of carrying out Enhanced DBS checks for all roles.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the proposed changes to the Safeguarding Policy be adopted.

226 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The draft Community Engagement Policy was reviewed and discussed.

It was **AGREED** that Council Officers would review and clarify the wording regarding 'final decision-making in the hands of the public (where appropriate)' found in section 5 of the policy draft.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council following amendments.

227 COUNCIL POSITION STATEMENT OF THE DISPLAYING OF FLAGS AROUND THE TOWN

A draft statement was presented by the Chief Executive which was considered by the Committee.

After some discussion **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council for approval.

228 BUDGET REPORT

Budget was noted.

It was **AGREED** that Council Officers should actively investigate reasons to spend from the Cost-of-Living fund.

There being no further business the meeting closed at: 19:35

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