

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD
AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT
7.00 PM**

Present: Councillor C Booth (Chair)
Councillors M Lithgow, J Lloyd, M McGuffie and S Pringle-
Kosikowsky.

In attendance: Darren Hill – Open Spaces Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services and Finance Officer
Steve Saunders – Footpath Volunteer Coordinator
One member of the press

229. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor S Fox.

230. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

231. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2025.

232. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

233. FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders confirmed that the annual cutting schedule has been completed and now volunteers will be carrying out regular checks.

Councillor J Lloyd announced that following her recommendation, Steve has been nominated for an Award with Somerset Council for services to the community. The awards ceremony will be Friday 10th October at Taunton Rugby Club.

234. OPEN SPACES MANAGER REPORT

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Open Spaces Manager provided a verbal update, and this was noted by the Committee.

235. OPEN SPACES MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The papers circulated with the agenda were considered.

RESOLVED to approve the following:

- i) Install a new plant bed by North St Toilets (£2,470).
- ii) Year 2 tree strategy (£4,300)

236. NATURE RECOVERY POLICY

The draft of this policy was considered.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the policy be adopted.

237. WASTE BINS REVIEW

After much discussion, it was agreed that Open Spaces Manager should lead on conducting a review of all waste bins in Wellington with the view that waste bins that are not used should be relocated to other areas. This would reduce costs as there would be no need to purchase new bins or increase waste collection.

238. SOMERSET COUNCIL – LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN CONSULTATION

The paper circulated with the agenda was considered.

Councillor J Lloyd noted that car use will not be reduced until increased bus services are present in Wellington and the surrounding areas.

The Town Bus project is still in development stages, and it has yet to be determined if this will be affordable. The Committee agreed that in addition to an internal bus service, there also needs to be an increased bus service from rural areas into Wellington.

Committee agreed that the current service provided by First Buses is of low standard and not acceptable.

239. STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT

The paper circulated with the agenda was considered.

The Committee expressed displeasure with the current service provided by Idverde.

It was **RESOLVED** that a Street Cleansing Contract Working Group is established. Confirmed that Councillors M Lithgow, S Pringle-Kosikowski expressed an interest in joining this group.

240. CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

Update was provided by the Open Spaces Manager which was noted.

241. JOINING 2026 WATER MARK TOWN COHORT

It was **agreed** that the Council's participation in this project is not to be counted as endorsement or affiliation with Wessex Water and Wellington Town Council would keep the right to be able to criticise Wessex Water.

RESOLVED to approve the following:

- i) That the Environment Committee supports entering discussions with Wessex Water to take part in the 2026 Water Mark Town scheme.
- ii) That the Community Development Officer is authorised to coordinate an initial expression of interest and begin preparing for a workshop in early 2026.
- iii) That a future report be brought back to the Committee in late 2025 with a proposed activity plan shaped by the Wessex Water engagement process.

242. BUDGETS

A budget report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

The Committee was made aware that budget considerations will need to be confirmed at the October 2025 Environment Committee and councillors will correspond via email prior to this meeting to ensure all recommendations are included as agenda items.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:55pm

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