

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),  
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, S Fox, A Govier, C Govier-Wiggins, R Henley, M Lithgow, M McGuffie, S Mercer, C Penk, S Pringle-Kosikowski, J Thorne and K Wheatley

**IN ATTENDANCE:** David Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk  
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer  
Sergeant Jon O'Connor, Wellington Community Policing Team (for minute 199)  
Robin Upton – Carney Sweeney (for minute 200)  
Emma Geater – Carney Sweeney (for minute 200)  
One member of the press  
19 members of the public

**194. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR**

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

**195. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE REASONS GIVEN**

No apologies were received.

**196. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**197. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 4 August 2025.

**198. COMMUNITY AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Chief Executive and the Mayor presented the Community Awards to the following recipients:

- Stephen Saunders – 2025 Civic Award
- Friends of Wellington Park – 2025 Community Award
- Leah Spanswick – 2025 Youth Award
- Nook & Cranny – 2025 Business Award

**199. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

One member of the public spoke in relation to the erection of flagpole and structures in the Basins noting that the individuals who had erected it were abusive to volunteers and Council staff who were instructed to remove it. He also spoke in relation to threatening and racist behaviour of youths in the area in relation to the erection of flags.

Chief Executive confirmed he will liaise with Sgt O'Conner outside of the meeting to discuss what action can be taken with regards to this.

**200. 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.

## 201. PRESENTATION FROM CARNEY SWEENEY

Robin Upton, Director of Planning, from Carney Sweeney (on behalf of Bloor Homes) delivered a presentation on the reserved matters application for residential areas at Longforth Park which was noted. The application has yet to be submitted and is in the process of finalisation following successful consultations.

It was confirmed that the number of proposed homes was reduced due to lower density building plans and the lack of affordable housing being built.

It was confirmed that the usage of the proposed employment land will be for businesses that are both varied and residential-friendly.

Adoptable roads will be at the acceptable standard by September 2026.

At this juncture, it was **RESOLVED** to bring forward agenda item 16 (Planning Applications)

## 202. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications were discussed.

### (a) Case Ref: 46/25/0020

**Proposal:** Erection of food store (Use Class E) with associated works including parking, access and landscaping on land to the south of the A38 and east of West Buckland Road, Wellington

It was confirmed that this application falls into the West Buckland Parish. However, as it directly impacts Wellington and is on the border of Wellington, the Council has been invited to comment on the application.

**RESOLVED** to raise no objection to this application.

### (b) Case Ref: 43/25/0062

**Proposal:** Application for Outline Planning with all matters reserved, except for access, for the erection of 2 No. dwellings with associated works on land off Corams Lane, Wellington

**RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be refused due to the detrimental impact this will have on local wildlife, biodiversity and local residents. In addition, concerns were also raised over the planned access to the site, which seemed an unusual arrangement.

## 203. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

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

## 204. SOMERSET COUNCIL / LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

Councillor R Henley stated his delight at the news that the J26 roadworks are due to be completed ahead of schedule. He also expressed his frustration that the Equalities Impact Statement regarding the closure of Lusson Surgery has still to be published. It was also noted that given the poor performance of Jhoots pharmacy, Wellington currently only has two functioning pharmacies.

Councillor A Govier noted that NHS Somerset provided a briefing regarding closure of Lusson Surgery and Councillor A Govier requested that the Jhoots pharmacy contract be revoked as they are not operating as a functional pharmacy anymore as they are without a

pharmacist for most days of the week. He noted that there are further meetings with NHS Somerset scheduled to discuss this.

Councillor R Henley will seek clarification from Somerset Council regarding the public consultation on the introduction of Sunday parking charges.

Councillor J Lloyd noted that the Section 106 requirement to review traffic calming measures at Chelston Roundabout and Heatherton Grange are currently being undertaken. It was confirmed that an order to repaint the double yellow lines at Torres Vedras Drive has been raised and that new signage has been erected in ASDA car park.

## **205. TO RECEIVE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

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

He has made a further request with NHS Somerset to ensure that Council members are invited to the stakeholders meeting regarding the closure of Luson Surgery. He advised that he will be contacting the local Health Watch group in relation to concerns about pharmacy provision in the town as suggested by the Norton Fitzwarren Parish Clerk.

## **206. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 9 June 2025 (committee now disbanded).

## **207. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2025 were noted.

## **208. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2025 were noted.

## **209. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2025 were noted and the council discussed the recommendations that were proposed.

After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations below:

### **(a) Longforth Farm Open Spaces**

- i. That the Council accepts the transfer of ownership of the areas of land surrounding the allotment site and the Ecology Field and the verge area as marked on the attached map.
- ii. That the Council accepts the transfer of ownership of the play areas on the Longforth Farm development.
- iii. That Officers explore further the transfer of ownership of the footpath between Brendon Road and Lillebonne Way and associated street lighting and bring recommendations back to the Committee.

### **(b) Green Corridor**

- i. That the Council supports Wellington Community Food in its application to DEFRA for a grant of c£25,500 over three years for improvements to the Community Farm site and surrounding area as detailed in the report.

### **(c) Pump Track Proposal**

- i. that the Council agrees in principle to a Pump Track being located in the Recreation Ground on the site identified in the report to enable more detailed planning and preparation work to continue with final agreement being required from the Council to progress the project once detailed costings and plans area available.

**210. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 24/25**

**RESOLVED** to note the External Audit Report and the Conclusion of Audit.

**211. TO CONSIDER EXCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude members of the press and public under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:  
Reason taken from the legislation - Information is commercially sensitive.

**212. LONGFORTH ROAD TOILETS UPDATE**

The contents of this minute are confidential as they pertain to an item that is commercially sensitive.

**213. TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE LAND ACQUISITION**

The contents of this minute are confidential as they pertain to an item that is commercially sensitive.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:55.**

**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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