

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER
2025 AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor C Booth (Chair),
Councillors M Lithgow, J Lloyd, C Penk, J. Thorne, K. Wheatley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dave Farrow - Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk
Annette Kirk - Facilities Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services and Finance Officer
One member of the press.

271. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor S Mercer.

272. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M Lithgow declared a personal interest relating to item 280 as he has close friends who are members of the Friends of Wellington Park organisation.

Councillor K Wheatley declared an interest related to item 278 as he was involved in organising the Film Festival event.

273. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2025.

274. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

275. EVENTS WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED to approve Minutes of the Events Working Group meeting held on 1st October 2025.

276. WELLINGTON DAY EVENT

The committee considered proposed details for the annual Wellington Day event and **RESOLVED** to approve the following:

- i. Event Times: Start 10am and Finish 5pm
- ii. Total budget of £15,000 to hold Wellington Day on Saturday 14th August 2027 on the Recreation Ground. To include exploring grant funding and sponsorship options available.
- iii. To set a budget of £7,000 for the new financial year 2026/2027 to cover the cost of advance booking deposits.
- iv. To budget £15,000 in the financial year 2027/2028 to pay the event balance £8,000 for August 2027 event and £7,000 for the preparation, set up and payment of booking deposits for the event to be held August 2028.

277. CARNIVAL

Councillor J Lloyd provided a report on Mayor's reception at the Wellington Carnival which was noted.

278. FILM FESTIVAL

Councillor K Wheatley provided a report on the success of the event which was noted.

279. BUS SHELTERS

RESOLVED to approve quotation from GW Shelters to include an Aluminium Bench, installation of a timetable casing and installation of RTI if power is available at Exeter Road, Rockwell Green.

RESOLVED to approve maintenance of two bus shelters and to proceed with the quote provided by M J Fletcher Property Maintenance. The following was **AGREED**:

- Bus shelter on High Street outside Casey Warren Hairdresser would receive a new timetable case.
- Bus shelter on High Street outside old Post Office will be cleaned, rubbed down, repainted and include a new timetable case.

280. PUBLIC TOILETS AND PAVILIONS

It was **RESOLVED** to approve appointing Property plans (southwest) Ltd to produce design layout drawings for the redesign/remodelling of Wellington Park Toilets (£840) and Recreation Ground Pavilion (£980).

It was confirmed by Council Officers that the cost would be met by the Professional Fees budget line which is Officer delegated.

281. TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKS

Councillor K Wheatley confirmed that there were no further significant developments and noted that Somerset Council is currently in the process of reviewing all car parks within Somerset and the review of Sunday charges which will delay any further action by Somerset Council.

282. PROMOTION OF WELLINGTON

Councillor K Wheatley confirmed that following discussions between the local artist and the Town Clerk, there is no need for a 50/50 profit share as there are no plans to produce goods or products with artwork that would bring in any revenue streams to share.

283. BUDGETS

It was **RESOLVED** to note Current Year (25/26) Income and Expenditure as at 9 October including committed spending.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend next year (26/27) income and expenditure budgets to be presented to November Policy & Finance Committee for approval with the following amendments:

- Changing name of “Smaller Trees” budget line to “Christmas Trees” and increasing the budget to £1000.
- Approve that the Emergency Planning budget line would be delegated to Council Officers.
- Approve that the Pop-Up Shop cost centre would be delegated to Council Officers.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the principle of extending the current contract for Christmas lighting for 1 year. It was **AGREED** that a request would be made to increase scope of Christmas lights to include Corn Hill and Lancer Court for the remainder of the contract

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:15.

Signed.....

Date.....