

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, A Govier, C Govier-Wiggins, 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 248)
One member of the press
12 members of the public

243. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

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

Apologies were received from Councillors S Fox, M Lithgow, K Wheatley.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant Councillor S Fox a leave of absence for all Council and committee meetings until the end of December 2025.

245 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

245. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 1 September 2025.

246. QUESTION AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One member of public raised concerns in relation to the planning application (Item 249), explaining her views on why it should not be approved citing transport, sewage and flood plain considerations.

One member of public raised the issue of flags on public property and how these should be removed.

Another two members of public spoke regarding the flag erected at the Basins and asked what progress has been made in ensuring it is removed. The Chief Executive Officer noted that discussions with the Basins landlord are ongoing.

One member of the public raised issue with high volumes of traffic noise and several motorists within Wellington owning cars that exceed the recommended DB noise levels and are often seen breaking the speed limit. Sgt O'Connor advised that registration plates of those motorists should be recorded and submitted to the police.

247. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

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

248. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application was discussed.

(a) Case Ref: 43/25/0064

Proposal: Application for Outline Planning with all matters reserved, except for access, for the erection of up to 320 No. dwellings, public open space, drainage and associated infrastructure on land east of Wardleworth Way, Wellington.

At this juncture, Councillor K Wheatley joined the meeting.

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application is refused citing the concerns raised regarding the impact to traffic and transport this development would have on Wellington, specifically referencing the needs for an additional railway bridge and a northern relief road in order to make this development more viable. Councillors noted that this development provides opportunity to connect with the proposed Greenway project.

It was further **RESOLVED**:

- To request that this application is reviewed by Somerset Council Planning Committee as opposed to a Planning Officer.
- That if this application is approved, to request that considerations should be made towards using Section 106 funds to develop an additional railway bridge as part of the development.

249. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor provided an update on her activities which was noted.

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

Councillor A Govier stated that there had been discussions about the challenges and impact of providing the educational needs of individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) requirements.

He also noted that at the most recent Scrutiny Committee meetings, they had discussed the closure of Luson Surgery and the use of Community Hospital. Wellington Town Councillors, who were in attendance, made it very clear that there are major issues regarding pharmacy provision within Wellington and the shortage of GP's and medical professionals within the overall Somerset area.

The Chair noted that she will raise the issues regarding traffic and congestions within Wellington, particularly due to street parking in Tonedale at the next Highways Working Group meeting. She will also raise the current issues surrounding car park signage.

It was agreed that Councillors A Govier and J Lloyd would request a review of traffic and transport within Wellington.

251. SOMERSET COUNCIL SUNDAY PARKING CONSULTATION

Councillors considered how it should respond to the proposed introduction of Sunday parking charges in Wellington.

It was proposed, and duly seconded, that the Council should oppose the proposals stating that they are a simple measure to bring in more revenue for Somerset Council and noted that comparisons to other more tourist focused Somerset towns like Cheddar, Minehead and Glastonbury were not accurate. The majority voted against, so the motion was not carried.

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to reluctantly support the proposals on the following conditions:

- That the increased revenue should be invested in car parks in Wellington.
- That the Council's response should list the work required in each car park individually, so it is clear where the investment is required.
- That Blue Badge holders are exempt from charges as they are in other areas of Somerset.

252. 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.

253. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2025 were noted and the following recommendations were considered:

- (a) That £10,700 be allocated upon a successful Accelerated Reform Fund bid application.

RESOLVED to approve.

- (b) That the proposed changes to the Safeguarding Policy be adopted.

RESOLVED to adopt.

- (c) To approve the Community Engagement Policy

RESOLVED to adopt.

- (d) To approve the statement on the displaying of flags around the town.

Councillors agreed that the flag and structure erected in the Basins should be removed as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive confirmed that he has contacted Somerset Council asking when the next round of maintenance is scheduled for lampposts and he confirmed that a Police presence can be requested if Wellington Town Council staff are instructed to remove the flags erected in the Basins.

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the statement.

254. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2025 were noted and the following recommendations were considered:

- (a) To approve the Nature Recovery Policy

RESOLVED to adopt.

255. POLICIES TO BE APPROVED

(a) Appraisal Process

It was **AGREED** to include details of how the Chief Executive can make an appeal on their own appraisal which is reviewed by Councillors who are not involved in the HR Sub-Committee. It was also confirmed that the Chief Executive should not be required to produce a comment for each appraisal.

RESOLVED to adopt the policy as amended.

(b) Co-option Policy

RESOLVED to adopt the policy.

(c) Training & Development Policy

It was **AGREED** to amend section 2.3 and 2.4 to replace 'Committee' with 'Sub-Committee' Councillors also agreed to enhance the link between training, appraisal and budget.

RESOLVED to adopt the policy as amended.

256. CADES FARM COMMUNITY HALL – PROJECT INITIATION

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting and Councillors agreed that the project should be renamed 'Wellington East Community Hall'.

RESOVLED to:

- (a) Agree to progress the project to build a community hall on allocated land at Cades Farm and if so
- (b) Accept the transfer of land from Persimmon Homes
- (c) Give officers delegated authority so spend against the Cades Farm Community Hall Earmarked Reserve budget and Professional Fees budget for this project.
- (d) Proceed with pre-planning discussions
- (e) Tender works for site preparation
- (f) Issue design and build tender for provision of modular building

257. DISPENSATION REQUEST – Councillor A GOVIER/COURT FIELDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Councillors considered Councillor A Govier's written request for dispensation to cover discussion and voting on any items that relate to Court Fields Community School.

RESOLVED to approve.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:20.

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier
Councillor Ross Henley

Mayor

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