

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
AT UNITED REFORM CHURCH ON MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor C Govier-Wiggins (Chair)
Councillors J Cole, A Govier, J Lloyd, M Lithgow, M McGuffie.

In attendance: Dave Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
Laura Batcha – Community Development Officer
Councillor G Williams

329 CHAIR TO WELCOME MEMBERS

The Chair welcomed members to the committee.

330 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Councillor C Penk.

331 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

332 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public in attendance.

333 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held 20 October 2025.

334 COMMUNITY CONNECT CHAMPION UPDATE

A report was circulated beforehand which was noted.

335 SALC MID-POINT EVALUATION

A report was circulated on the evaluation findings and progress of the Kings Arms Community Hub (KACH) since opening in July 2025 which was noted.

Councillors noted the success of the KACH and how quickly it has become a recognised facility within Wellington Town for community purposes.

At this juncture, Councillor J Cole entered the meeting.

336 CHRISTMAS YOUTH DELIVERY

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a spend of £400 from Wellington Community Support Services to expand delivery capacity for the In the Mix Christmas youth sessions on 29 and 30 December 2025.

It was further **RESOLVED** to support the inclusion of discretionary places for young people who may not meet HAF criteria. It was **AGREED** that Council Officers be granted delegated spend to ensure that the costs for this can be met.

At this juncture, Councillor M McGuffie gave apologies and left the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree that the outcomes and feedback from these sessions will be used to inform future youth provision planning and partnership delivery in 2026.

337 APPRENTICESHIP

The report on the requirement for an apprenticeship was circulated and noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the creation a Business Administration Apprentice post within the Community Development function. It was **AGREED** that Council Officers will manage the recruitment process to determine the most appropriate start date for this post.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the post to be funded through the Community Budget (26/27) as per the first draft previously presented.

338 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

At this juncture, Council M Lithgow gave apologies and left the meeting.

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the draft line for Youth Services (£50,000) be renamed Youth Development.

It was further **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that an additional line in the Community Services cost centre be created specifically for the Cradle to Caree project and to allocate an additional fund of £50,000.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council to create an additional line in the Community Services cost centre for 2026/7 for youth provision to be delivered by In the Mix to ensure that this can continue beyond October 2026. The funds required will be calculated by the Community Development Officer in advance of the December 2025 Full Council meeting.

The resolutions above are made within the context that the Community Services cost centre is delegated to and controlled by this Committee.

339 COMMUNITY KITCHEN & CAFÉ

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate the remaining £8,000 from the 2025–26 Community Development Budget to develop the Kings Arms Community Kitchen and Café pending confirmation that associated activities will be covered through the pre-existing insurance.

340 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed Community Development Budget 2026–27 (£14,000) however the allocation of funds should be determined by the Community Development Officer across the five streams identified.

It was **AGREED** that delivery will be managed by the Community Development Officer in line with the priorities of the pending Community Development Plan.

341 UPDATED INCOME REPORT FOR KINGS ARMS COMMUNITY HUB (KACH)

The confirmed annual income position of £15,495.60 for the Kings Arms Community Hub based on current verified bookings was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the introduction of a standard room hire charging policy for all organisations using the Hub from April 2026.

It was **AGREED** that voluntary and charitable organisations will be supported to access external funding to cover hire costs.

It was **AGREED** that all decisions relating to whether the Council will absorb hire costs for organisations where funding is not secured will be presented to and determined by the Community Committee.

It was noted that there will be opportunities throughout the year to generate additional income through funding bids, partnership projects, and the future operation of the Hub Café (either via a Service Level Agreement with a third-party operator or a voluntary-run café model).

There being no further business the meeting closed at: 19:30.

Sign.....

Date.....