

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors C Booth, A Govier, R Henley, M McGuffie, M Lithgow, 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 310)
One member of the press
Two members of the public

305. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending and noted the Britain in Bloom National Sustainability Award awarded to Transition Town Wellington

306. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE REASONS GIVE

Apologies were received from Councillors J Cole and C Govier-Wiggins.

Councillor S Fox has previously been granted a leave of absence for all Council and committee meetings until the end of December 2025.

307. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

308. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 6 October 2025.

309. QUESTION AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

310. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

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

311. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications were discussed.

(a) Case Ref: 43/25/0088

Proposal: Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Application 43/23/0056 for the layout, landscaping, scale and appearance of the erection of 161 No. dwellings and associated infrastructure on land north of Taunton Road, Longforth Park, Wellington.

RESOLVED to note.

(b) Case Ref: 43/25/0085

Proposal: Erection of 67 No. dwellings with landscaping and associated infrastructure on land within the approved development area (43/14/0130) for part Phases 4 and 5 on land at Jurston Farm, Wellington.

RESOLVED to raise no objection.

(c) Case Ref: 43/25/0086

Proposal: Approval of reserved matters following Outline Application 43/14/0130 for the appearance, landscaping, scale and layout for the erection of 268 No. dwellings, associated drainage and infrastructure at Phases 4, 5, 6 and 7 on land at Jurston Farm, Wellington.

RESOLVED to raise no objection.

312. PLANNING OFFICER RECRUITMENT

The report from the Chief Executive proposing the creation of a post of Planning Officer was noted.

Councillors J Thorne and S Pringle-Kosikowski were supportive of this proposal but noted that going forward, the Planning Committee would need to be reinstated if this post is created.

Councillor K Wheatley noted that this position would have no fixed role within the various stakeholders within the planning process and would therefore have little power/impact. The public would perceive this role as having statutory powers and would be dismayed upon learning that it did not.

Councillor S Mercer proposed that instead of a planning officer role, the council should employ an officer instead on a part-time basis to identify concerns and issues regarding infrastructure within Wellington.

It was proposed by Councillor J Thorne that the proposals in the paper be approved but this was not seconded.

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** not to move forward with the proposal to employ a Planning Officer, but Council Officers would explore the feasibility of recruiting for an alternative role that advises on infrastructure.

313. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

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

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

Councillor A Govier stated that there was a lot of positive news about the growth of Court Fields Community School. The school now has two extra classrooms, in addition to this a performance space has just been built and the canteen area has been extended. Somerset Council is also exploring further bids for additional classrooms to ensure there are enough secondary school places in Wellington going forward.

Councillor R Henley noted the LCN meeting was well attended. The police provided a report on modern forensic techniques used to catch criminals and potential plans for cycle routes between Wellington and Taunton was discussed.

Councillor J Lloyd noted the comments from Highways England and Active Travel on the proposed developments in Wardleworth Way. Highways England have commented that the

traffic impact assessment is unacceptable and Active Travel recommended deferral at this time.

315. 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.

The success of the recent Garden of Light event was noted and it was confirmed that the event produced an income of over £2,000 based purely on donations.

Following an incident at the Kings Arms Community Hub, a review of security measures will take place.

Finally, the In The Mix youth provision delivery at the Kings Arms Community Hub held over the October half-term was a massive success garnering over 50 participants.

316. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Councillor Lithgow noted and thanked the Committee for its flexibility in finding alternative ways to support a grant application that did not meet the criteria for a grant.

Councillor A Govier noted an incorrect figure for Mayor/Chairman allowance, it should be £403.89 instead of the £403.39 quoted in the minutes.

317. COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

It was **RESOLVED** to set the Councillors' Basic Allowance at £807.78, with the additional payment to the Mayor/Chairman remaining at an additional 50% (£403.89) for 2026/27.

318. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2025 were noted.

319. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2025 were noted.

320. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2025 were noted.

321. CONSIDER AMENDING START TIME OF FULL COUNCIL

It was **RESOLVED** to amend the start time of Full Council to 6pm.

322. BUDGET OVERSPEND

It was **RESOLVED** to note and approve the forecasted overspends as detailed in the report.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:30.

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier

Councillor Ross Henley

Mayor

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Date.....

Initial