

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 10th
DECEMBER 2025 AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Vice-Chair),
Councillors S Mercer, J Lloyd, J. Thorne.

IN ATTENDANCE: Annette Kirk - Facilities Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services and Finance Officer
Laura Batcha – Community Development Officer
Sally Mann – Fuse Performance (Minute 376)
John Lee – Fuse Performance (Minute 376)
Deborah Richardson – Somerset Film (Minute 377)
Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowski

371. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor C Booth, C Penk & K Wheatley.

372. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

373. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2025.

374. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

375. WELLINGTON EMPLOYER AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

The Community Development Officer provided a briefing on a new network aimed at bringing local employers, training providers, and community partners together with the key aim to strengthen Wellington's economy while building a stronger future workforce for the town.

This work will tie directly into the Cradle to Career programme by focusing on improving outcomes for young people and allowing us to bring employers into that conversation to help shape skills development, work experience, and future job pathways.

Laura Batcha, the Community Development Officer, will represent the Town Council as lead convenor. The project currently involves the following individuals: Rob Morish (Somerset Careers Hub), Charity Hunt (Careers Lead at Court Fields Community School), Collen Blake (Somerset Council Employment Hub), Hattie Winter (Somerset Council Economic Development), Claire Care (Reminisce Learning) and Charlotte Joyner (Young Somerset).

Councillor J Thorne noted his support for this initiative and confirmed that this further demonstrates the additional responsibilities and growth of Wellington Town Council.

Councillors confirmed they would like updates to be fed back directly to the Economic Development Committee.

376. GARDEN OF LIGHT REPORT

Sally Mann and John Lee of Fuse Performance Ltd provided a verbal post-event report which was noted.

Councillors thanked Fuse Performance for their efforts in organising the event which was well received by those that attended.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve holding another event in October 2026.

It was **AGREED** that the funds raised from the 2025 event (£2,124.31) would be retained by Fuse Somerset Outdoor Arts for future arts projects/events in Wellington.

It was **AGREED** to produce a one-year Service Level Agreement with Fuse Somerset Outdoor Arts that will be drafted by the Events Working Group. The Economic Development Committee will review and finalise this agreement.

It was noted that Council Officers have delegated authority to pay £2,000 post event expenses.

At this juncture, Laura Batcha, Sally Mann and John Leigh left the meeting.

377. FILM FESTIVAL

A verbal post event report and presentation was provided by Deborah Richardson of Somerset Film which was noted.

It was noted that some of the content of the Film Festival has since appeared on BBC Somerset. Visit Somerset and BBC Somerset also advertised the event.

Deborah noted that in planning the event and deciding which films to showcase they attempt to deliver a diverse range of cinema which is as broad and popular as possible.

At this juncture, Deborah Richardson and Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowski left the meeting.

378. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT

A post event report was circulated, and a verbal update was provided by the Facilities Manager which was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve event expenditure.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a token gift of £50 to Chris Thenbergh who played Santa Claus.

379. BUS SHELTERS

A report was circulated which was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed scheme and gives delegated power to Council Officers and two committee members to proceed with sponsor recruitment, design finalization, and installation scheduling.

Councillors J Lloyd and M Lithgow volunteered to be the committee members for this project.

380. PROMOTION OF WELLINGTON

A verbal report was provided by the Facilities Manager which was noted.

It was noted that Councillor K Wheatley has been writing statement for the Promotion of Wellington website focusing on a series of niches and sectors where the town has strength e.g. Fashionista Wellington and Vintage Wellington. He has also been liaising with the CEO of Berrys Coaches about using the Guild of British Coach Operators to promote the Wellington coach stop as an alternative to the nearby M5 services as a comfort break.

Council J Lloyd noted that she had recently attended a Highways Somerset meeting regarding Car Park signage where it was confirmed that new boards and signage will be incoming however there is currently no timeline provided for this.

381. BUDGETS

The budget paper was circulated and noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:20.

Signed.....

Date.....