

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 2025 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, A Govier, C Govier-Wiggins, R Henley, M McGuffie, M Lithgow, S Mercer, S Pringle-Kosikowski, J Thorne, G Williams and K Wheatley

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk
Alice Kendall – Democratic Services & Finance Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
Sergeant Jon O'Connor, Wellington Community Policing Team (for minute 359)
One member of the press
One member of the public

354. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

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

Apologies were received from Councillor C Penk.

Councillor S Fox has previously been granted a leave of absence for all Council and committee meetings until the end of December 2025. The CEO/Town Clerk advised that written confirmation has been provided by Councillor S Fox that she has resigned her post and that the vacancy would be advertised as soon as possible.

356. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Lloyd noted that her son is employed at Swallowfield/KDC One (Minute 360)

357. MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 3 November 2025.

358. QUESTION AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At this juncture, Councillor C Booth, J Cole and G Williams entered the meeting.

One member of the public spoke about concerns regarding significant traffic issues around St. John's Primary School. Councillor A Govier confirmed that he will take this up with Somerset Council and Council Officers will ensure to keep the member of public informed of any updates.

359. 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.

360. CLOSURE OF SWALLOWFIELD/KDC ONE

A verbal update was provided by the CEO/Town Clerk on the closure of the Swallowfield production site. He advised that at this stage closure was a proposal and that the company was working its way through a process which needed to be respected. He had spoken to the

MD of the company and offered support when it was needed and had also made contact with the Economic Development Team at Somerset Council which also offers a range of support and will work alongside Wellington Town Council.

At this juncture, Council R Henley entered the meeting.

Councillors noted the negative impact the closure will have on the town and it was noted that the Council's Economic Development Committee should have oversight on this.

361. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

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

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

Councillor R Henley reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission noted they made a mistake in their interpretation of the advice given to them by Somerset Council. As a result, the consultation process has been re-opened and will close on 13 January 2026 with the view to finalise a decision by March 2026. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk will formulate another response for the boundary commission.

Councillor R Henley stated that the Somerset Council Executive would be considering a report on the introduction of Sunday parking charges and despite overwhelming public opposition to the proposal it is likely to be proceeding. He reiterated that the introduction of Sunday car parking charges would not be appropriate for Wellington.

He also reported on a discussion at Health Scrutiny Committee about pharmacy provision in Somerset where he had argued for additional capacity for Wellington as he believes that the current pharmacy provision in Wellington is not appropriate for the town.

Council J Cole noted that NHS Somerset believe that two pharmacies is enough for Wellington. The Town Clerk confirmed that another meeting with NHS Somerset was scheduled later this week to review a range of matters.

Councillor A Govier confirmed that Somerset Council will be implementing traffic regulation orders in and around Wellington. He requested that Councillors should make him aware of any car parking anomalies which need to be reviewed so they can be addressed and highlighted.

Councillor J Lloyd confirmed that she will be attending the next Highways Somerset meeting and will raise any issues and concerns relayed to her such as car parking signage, the recoding issues with the North Street traffic lights etc.

363. 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.

364. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2025 were noted.

The proposals outlined in the draft budget papers pending any updates for draft 2 from the Committees was noted.

365. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

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

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the draft line for Youth Services (£50,000) be renamed Youth Development.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the creation of an additional line in the Community Services cost centre be created specifically for the Cradle to Career project and to allocate an additional fund of £50,000.
- (c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the creation of an additional line in the Community Services cost centre for 2026/27 for youth provision to be delivered by In the Mix and to allocate funds of £9,000 for this.

366. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2025 were noted and the following recommendations were discussed:

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the Playing Field Path project is initiated as soon as possible, noting it falls outside of the current budget.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding with Transition Town Wellington.

367. PUMP TRACK

The following recommendations were discussed:

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with this project now that viability has been confirmed.
- (b) It was **AGREED** to proceed with a formal request to Somerset Council to allocate S106 Funds of £48,710.30 to the project.
- (c) It was **AGREED** to proceed with grant and funding applications for the balance of the cost.
- (d) It was **AGREED** to seek competitive tenders for the construction of the Pump Track and to ensure that it is built using sustainable methods and materials to reduce the impact on the local environment.
- (e) It was **AGREED** to seek quotations to improve footpath access from the entrance to the Recreation Ground to the play area and then on to Pump Track site as part of the project.

368. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of Councillor G Williams to the Environment Committee.

369. ASSERTION 10 & PUBLICATION SCHEME

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following:

- (a) The Council appoint Aubergine to create and host its new website under a new .gov.uk domain
- (b) The updated Accessibility Statement be adopted (as per requirements for the WCAG guidance).
- (c) That delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk to amend the IT policy as necessary.
- (d) To adopt the model ICO Publication Scheme.

370. BUDGET

At this juncture, Councillor C Booth left the meeting.

Draft 2 of the budget report was noted and after much discussion, the following recommendations were made:

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Income & Expenditure budget for 26/27 as presented in the budget report noting the income at £127,535 and the expenditure at £1,752,411.09
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments into reserve for 26/27 as presented at £72,592.
- (c) It was **RESOLVED** to set the general reserve figure at £250,000

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:52.

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier

Councillor Ross Henley

Mayor

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Date.....