

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors 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
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
Sergeant Jon O'Connor, Wellington Community Policing Team (for minute 435)
One member of the press
Two members of the public

427. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

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

Apologies were received from Councillors C Booth, C Penk and S Pringle-Kosikowski.

429. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none to declare.

430. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5 January 2026 having accepted an amendment requested by a member of the public.

431. QUESTION AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One member of the public spoke requesting a room at the Kings Arms Community Hub be named in memory of Richard Fox.

The chair responded that this will be taken up by the Community Committee.

432. 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.

433. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

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

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

Councillor A Govier noted that Somerset Council was in process of setting its budget for 26/27 and there was likely to be a recommendation for a substantial increase in Council Tax. The meeting to determine this has been postponed until the first week of March. In an attempt to reduce costs, Somerset Council is looking to increase the number of in-house services provided for health and social care such as residential provision for children and to that end had purchased a house in Beech Grove. It was noted that agreement to increase council precept by more than 4.9% must be provided by central government.

Councillor J Lloyd stated she attended the latest LCN meeting on Monday night which was poorly attended. She had also attended the LCN Highways meeting where it was confirmed

that there was a £20k action fund for flooding that has a 3-month turnaround for committee approval. No Somerset Council officers were in attendance as they were dealing with floods.

435. TO RECEIVE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The report from the Chief Executive was noted. There was some discussion about whether the decision on the Land South of Oldway Road planning application had been delegated to officers. An email from the Chair of the Planning Committee West to Councillor A Govier seemed to indicate that no decision had yet been made.

Councillor A Govier confirmed that the works on North Street are due to be completed on the 3 February with the road opening the following day.

At this juncture in the meeting, Councillor R Henley entered the meeting.

Councillor R Henley confirmed that there are over 28 additional teams from Somerset Council dealing with potholes across Somerset.

436. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2026 were noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant request by the Wellington Tennis Club of £10,000 for a new club house with £5,000 coming from the un-allocated CIL reserve and £5,000 from the Grants budget.

It was agreed that in future, associated papers relating to decisions to be made by Council on recommendations from committees will be attached to future Full Council agendas.

437. HR SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was **RESOLVED** to approve amending the Terms of Reference of the HR Sub Committee so that its membership is five councillors.

It was **AGREED** that Councillors J Thorne and G Williams will sit on the Sub Committee to bring the membership up to five.

438. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2026 were noted.

439. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2026 were noted.

440. UPDATE ON SUPPORT BEING OFFERED TO KDC/ONE SWALLOWFIELD EMPLOYEES

The report was noted.

441. PERRY ELM FARM – AERIAL UPGRADE

It was **AGREED** not to provide any comment.

442. POP UP SHOP – PROPOSAL FOR USE

After much discussion, Councillor M McGuffie withdrew the proposal.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:45.

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier

Councillor Ross Henley

Mayor

.....

Date