

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD
AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2026 AT
7.00 PM**

Present: Councillor C Booth (Chair)
Councillors J Lloyd, M McGuffie, S Pringle-Kosikowsky and G Williams.

In attendance: Dave Farrow – Town Clerk/CEO
Darren Hill – Open Spaces Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services and Finance Officer
Councillor J Thorne
Councillor K Wheatley
Steven Saunders – Footpath Volunteer Coordinator
One member of the press
One member of the public

414. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor M Lithgow.

415. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

416. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2025.

417. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

418. FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders confirmed that the volunteer group is currently on their winter break and in the interim they are planning to service their machinery.

419. OPEN SPACES MANAGER REPORT

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting which was noted.

At this juncture, Councillor K Wheatley entered the meeting.

Councillor J Thorne noted his concerns at the location of the CCTV cameras in the Wellington Park. The Open Spaces Manager confirmed that the CCTV cameras can be moved and alternative locations can be reviewed.

420. OPEN SPACES MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Open Spaces Manager confirmed that the previous quote from R W Gale to tarmac the playing field path is still the most economical which was noted. As previously agreed, R W Gale will be contacted to start this work which will be funded from the 2025-26 budget.

421. GREEN CORRIDOR WATERWAYS AND BASINS PONDS

The paper circulated with the agenda was considered.

After much discussion, it was **AGREED** that the Chief Executive should progress work on assessing risks and costs related to the transfer of these waterways to Wellington Town Council and to report back to a future Committee meeting with a proposal about how to proceed.

422. MEMORIAL PLAQUES

It was **AGREED** that the Open Spaces Manager will review examples of heritage parks in other locations for memorial plaques and present these at a future Committee meeting.

423. CROWN ESTATE LAND

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update on the purchase process which was noted.

424. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update which was noted.

425. TREE STRATEGY

The Open Spaces Manager provided a verbal update which was noted and confirmed that there were 25 trees which were not planted due to a lack of agreement with Highways Somerset on their location. An agreement has since been formalised on acceptable locations and these will be planted in the next planting season.

426. MEETING START TIME

It was **RESOLVED** to approve amending the start time of Environment Committee meetings to 6:30pm going forward.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:03pm

Sign.....

Date.....