

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
AT UNITED REFORM CHURCH ON MONDAY 16 MARCH 2026 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor C Govier-Wiggins (Chair)
Councillors J Cole, A Govier, M McGuffie, J Lloyd, M Lithgow.

In attendance: Dave Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
Laura Batcha – Community Development Officer
Peter Joint – Community Connect Champion
Rob Odhams – Community Project Coordinator
Michelle Brookes – Somerset Council LCN Officer
Nick Harvey – In the Mix
One member of the press

487 CHAIR TO WELCOME MEMBERS
The Chair welcomed members to the committee.

488 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN
Apologies were received from Councillor C Penk.

489 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

490 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
No members of the public in attendance.

491 MINUTES
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held 19 January 2026.

492 COMMUNITY CONNECT CHAMPION UPDATE
A verbal update was provided by the Community Connect Champion which was noted.

It was confirmed that the draft Funding Agreements for the Best Start in Family Life and Community Connect roles were with the Chief executive for consideration.

493 TOGETHER IN TONE
The report detailing the progress and findings made during the engagement phase of the Together in Tone project was noted.

Councillor J Lloyd noted that Samford Arundel and Wellington Without parishes have yet to be contacted. The Community Development Officer said that she will investigate this and contact Stawley Parish Council.

Councillor A Govier asked whether a Winter concert similar to the summer concerts hosted by the Friends of Wellington Park could be delivered as part of the project. The Community Development Officer confirmed that the requirement was to deliver this project before September 2026 but said that interest for a winter event can be assessed.

Councillors **AGREED** that the project direction should be toward smaller events as opposed to one big event.

494 IN THE MIX YOUTH DELIVERY

An update was provided by Nick Harvey and was noted.

Councillor A Govier noted the positive impact of the provision and that he is supportive of the second session being an outreach session.

It was confirmed that attendance data is being collated and sent to the council to determine trends and impact.

At this juncture, it was **AGREED** to bring forward item 17.

495 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT HOLIDAY PROVISION

It was **RESOLVED** to approve additional funding of £5850.00 to support youth activity provision during half-term holiday periods.

It was **AGREED** that funding should be allocated from the Youth Development budget.

Councillor J Cole noted that ideas for outreach programmes should be tested first before being brought to the Community Committee.

496 KINGS ARMS COMMUNITY HUB STRATEGY

After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Kings Arms Community Hub Strategy & Delivery Plan 2026–2029 to include the following amendment:

- Par 5.1 - 'governance reporting to committee' will be changed to 'reporting via the chief executive to committee'.

Councillors noted this will be reviewed annually, with any significant changes reported back to the Community Committee.

At this juncture, it was **AGREED** to bring forward item 13.

497 KINGS ARMS COMMUNITY HUB ROOM HIRE PLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the use of the Hub for commercial hire and private social events where appropriate, subject to availability and operational arrangements.

The following resolutions were made on the casting vote of the Chair of the Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed room hire eligibility and subsidy framework for a trial period of two months.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the subsidy eligibility matrix for a trial period of two months.

It was **AGREED** to grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive/Town Clerk to review and approve subsidy requests against the agreed criteria for a trial period of two months.

498 BEST START IN LIFE STRATEGY

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Best Start in Life Strategy as the framework guiding Wellington Town Council's involvement in the Best Start in Life programme.

Councillors noted that the Strategy will be reviewed annually, with updates reported back to the Community Committee.

499 CRADLE TO CAREER STRATEGY

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Cradle to Career Strategy as the framework guiding Cradle to Career partnership activity within Wellington.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed allocation of £14,300 from the Cradle to Career budget to support delivery of Year 1 programme activity.

Councillors noted that programme delivery will be reviewed annually through the Community Committee.

Councillors noted that they are keen for initiatives and project to begin and be tested as soon as possible. Councillor J Lloyd noted that it has been some time since an update on the initiative to turn Wellington into a Reading Town. The Community Development Officer outlined the work that had been taking place and agreed to provide a more detailed update at the next meeting.

500 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

It was **AGREED** that the proposed strategy should be revised to ensure it is more forward thinking and includes specific details on which groups are targeted by this strategy. An update will be provided at the next meeting with the revised timescales of completion.

501 WELLINGTON CARES

Rob Odams provided an update on the emerging proposal from Somerset Council that responsibility for supporting and coordinating micro-providers may transfer from county-level management to community-based organisations, including those receiving Accelerated Reform Fund (ARF) funding.

It was acknowledged that this represents a change in scope from the original Wellington Cares ARF pilot, which was designed to explore local need around unpaid carers, micro-providers and volunteers rather than formally govern or manage the micro-provider network. Councillors noted that this is an opportunity for the council to create a model that works specifically for Wellington.

It was **AGREED** in principle that Wellington Town Council continue to explore the potential role of coordinating micro-provider support locally through the Wellington Cares pilot, subject to:

- further clarification from Somerset Council regarding governance arrangements, responsibilities and support available to community organisations
- confirmation that Wellington Town Council would not assume responsibility for regulatory functions such as DBS verification, insurance checks or formal governance of micro-providers
- completion and review of the proposed Readiness Checklist, Service Level Agreement and Joint Strategy
- a further report being brought back to the Community Committee before any formal commitment is made

502 WACKY WEDNESDAYS

It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the Town Council take over the governance of the Wacky Wednesdays programme and provide coordination and management support.

It was confirmed that the existing programme bank account will be closed and any remaining funds transferred to Wellington Town Council.

503 BRIGHT BEGINNINGS BABY/TODDLER GROUP

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the adoption of the Bright Beginnings Parent, Baby and Toddler Group under the Wellington Town Council volunteer framework with a view to them operating at Kings Arms Community Hub.

It was confirmed that room hire costs for the group will be covered by an appropriate Council budget.

There being no further business the meeting closed at: 20:15.

Sign.....

Date.....