

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026 AT 6:30 PM

Present: Councillor J Lloyd (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M Lithgow, M McGuffie, S Pringle-Kosikowsky, G Western 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
Steven Saunders – Footpath Volunteer Coordinator
Charles Biscoe – Grand Western Greenway
One member of the press
Four members of the public

504. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor C Booth.

505. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

506. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2026.

507. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One member of the public spoke about The National Emergency Briefing film which is due for release on 7 April 2026. Transition Town Wellington would like to co-ordinate a good date and time with WTC to show this film in late May with as many Councillors in attendance. Council Officers will investigate the most appropriate date and liaise with the member of public about this.

One member of the public spoke about the need for more inclusive play equipment in Play Areas and the need for a pedestrian crossing by the Catholic Church on Mantle Street.

The Open Spaces Manager responded that the Council is investigating more inclusive equipment in play areas such as wheelchair accessible swings, widening the path to the Rec Play Area to allow for greater wheelchair access and a map of all accessible and inclusive play equipment in Wellington. Council Officers will raise the request for an additional pedestrian crossing with Highways Somerset.

508. GRAND WESTERN GREENWAY

Charles Biscoe provided an update on the Grand Western Greenway active travel project from Wellington Train Station to Taunton Train Station. He is confident that planning permission would be granted to the start of the active travel route in both Wellington and Taunton. He noted the discouraging news

that Somerset Active Travel funding is going towards urban travel routes as opposed to rural routes and therefore the only access to funding for the Grand Western Greenway project is through Section 106.

509. TRINITY FARM NATURE RESERVE

Gabriel Connor-Stretch, CEO Greenshank Environmental was not in attendance so this item was not discussed.

510. FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders confirmed that they are still in the transition period between winter and spring. He confirmed that the group managed to clear one tree that had fallen onto a path.

511. OPEN SPACES MANAGER REPORT

The Open Spaces Manager provided a verbal update of his report which was noted.

Councillor M McGuffie noted that the gate into Fox's Field was not secure and would allow fly tipping. The Open Spaces Manager will investigate options for a new gate into Fox's Field.

Councillor J Thorne expressed concern at the Welcome to Wellington sign located at Coles Farm by Chelston Roundabout. He has requested that the Coles sponsorship sign is removed or the Welcome to Wellington sign is moved to a council owned plot. Councillor M Lithgow agreed. Council Officers will review the options and feed them back to a future committee for resolution.

512. BASINS ADVISORY BOARD

The minutes of the meetings held on 23rd February and 11th March 2025 were noted.

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

It was **RESOLVED** not to approve the proposed The Basins Allotments Rules and Guidance 2026 due to the recommendation that bonfires should be allowed. Furthermore, section 10 is titled 'Dogs, Livestock and Bees' but makes no mention of bees. The Basins Advisory Board will need to review The Basins Allotments Rules Rule and Guidance and resubmit to a future Environment Committee.

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

- i. Accessible plot raised beds rent charges as detailed below:
 - Raised beds: A, B, C, E & M = £15.00 per annum
 - Raised bed: D = £20.00 per annum
 - Raised beds: F, G, H = £17.50 per annum
 - Raised beds: I, J, K, L = £10.00 per annum.
- ii. Accessible Plot Tenancy Agreement

iii. Accessible Plot Rules

513. WELLINGTON MONUMENT PLANTER

It was **RESOLVED** to approve improvements to the entrance to Wellington by re-homing the Wellington Monument Planter and some area of landscaping on the roundabout at the entrance to Longforth Farm.

514. LIDL HEDGEROW

It was **AGREED** to make a formal complaint to Somerset Council regarding the missing hedgerows at Lidl, Taunton Road and Nynehead Road. The main basis of the complaint shall be in relation to a breach of planning application conditions.

515. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER FOR DOG FOULING

Councillors noted the difficulty of policing dog fouling and how this protection order will be useless unless properly enforced. Councillors agreed that this was not an appropriate response to the problem of dog fouling.

It was **AGREED** to raise no comment.

516. INCLUSIVE PLAY POLICY

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the draft Inclusive Play Policy as a starting point to be further developed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:00pm

Sign.....

Date.....