

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, A Govier, C Govier-Wiggins, M Lithgow, M McGuffie (from minute 522), C Penk, J Thorne, G Western, G Williams and K Wheatley

IN ATTENDANCE: Alice Kendall – Democratic Services & Finance Manager
Sergeant Jon O’Connor, Wellington Community Policing Team (for minute 522)
C Winter – West of England Developments (for planning application 43/25/0040)
1 member of the press
2 members of the public

517. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those present

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

Apologies were received from Councillors S Mercer and S Pringle-Kosikowski.

519. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

520. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 2 March 2026.

521. QUESTION AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public wished to speak.

522. 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.

During this item, Councillor M McGuffie arrived at the meeting.

523. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications were considered:

(a) Case reference: 43/26/0021

Proposal: Variation of Condition No. 01 of application 43/15/0152 to extend the permitted delivery hours between 1st December and 24th December each year at Waitrose, 34-36 High Street, Red Lion Court, Wellington

It was proposed, and duly seconded, to recommend that this application be refused given the detrimental impact on neighbouring properties due to noise and fumes from idling lorries. There were five votes in favour, six against and one abstention, the motion was not carried.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that the application be approved.

(b) Case reference: 43/25/0040

Proposal: Application for Outline Planning with all matters reserved, except for access, for the erection of up to 75 No. dwellings (including 25% affordable), with access, pedestrian and cycle links, play area, drainage, landscaping and associated infrastructure on land south of Little Jurston, Wellington

C Winter gave information on the updates to the application.

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to recommend that the application be approved. However, Councillors raised the importance of allowing the development to be linked with active travel routes to adjoining developments at Jurston and Westpark. It was further supported that the footway adjoining the road must be significantly illuminated as well as implementing a reduction in speed limit to 30mph.

524. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor circulated an update on her activities by e-mail.

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

Councillor A Govier reported that there had not been any significant meetings at Somerset Council since the last meeting. However, the issue of potholes and the timeframe in which they are dealt with is at the forefront of concern and he continues to follow this up with the Highways department and has been providing updates by e-mail. He understood that Somerset Council had received some additional funding to tackle drain clearance and cutting back so he had enquired if some of this work could be devolved to the Town Council as their work can be much more reactive and targeted. However, he was informed that this was not possible. Finally, it was reported that the wedge of green land in Rockwell Green between the Cemetery down to Foxdown Road has been allocated as a specific site for nutrient offset and therefore is likely protected from development. He will circulate plans to Councillors for information.

Councillor J Lloyd reported on updated from the Highways working group regarding the route from Wellington to Taunton. The next meeting will be held the day after this meeting and she will circulate the details should anyone wish to attend.

526. TO RECEIVE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The report from the Chief Executive was noted.

527. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2026 were noted.

528. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2026 were noted.

529. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2026 were noted.

530. OPEN SPACES FINANCIAL REPORT

A report was circulated with the agenda and during discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule

12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Reason: Information likely to reveal the identity of individuals.

After further discussion, it was **RESOLVED**

- (a) To note and approve the updated Staffing schedule for the Open Spaces department as detailed in the report which will result in a likely overspend of the specific budget line.
- (b) To approve a spend of up to £16,000 from the Vehicle Replacement Reserve, to be delegated to the Open Spaces Manager.

It was further requested that a report be presented to the next Policy & Finance meeting to review the internal processes and decisions that were implemented.

As the press and public had already been excluded from the meeting, the next item was also considered under confidential session as detailed on the agenda. Reason: information presented is commercially sensitive.

531. PUMP TRACK

A report was circulated and reviewed. After some discussion, it was resolved:

- (a) To confirm that the preferred tender is option 3 from Clark & Kent at a value of £155,000.
- (b) To commit the unallocated CIL reserve to the project. (amount to be confirmed following a year end reserve report to the April Policy & Finance Meeting)
- (c) To give Council Officers delegated authority to progress the project as soon as the funding required is confirmed.

It was further agreed that that Council should now consider what funding to commit to the project from its own general fund and that it would like to see the project come to fruition as soon as possible. The DSFM will obtain an update from Olly Edmonson-Low on the funding bids he has submitted and the timeframe in which he thinks they will be completed and/or decided. If required, some Council Officer time will be given to see the project advance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.08.

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier
Councillor Ross Henley

Mayor

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Date.....