

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT UNITED REFORM CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 9 MARCH 2026 AT 6.00 PM

Present: Councillor M Lithgow (Chair)
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, J Lloyd, A Govier, C Penk, J Thorne and K Wheatley

In attendance: Dave Farrow – Town Clerk/Chief Executive
Alice Kendall – Democratic Services & Finance Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
One member of the press
Nine members of the public

539 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors S Pringle-Kosikowski.

540 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors A Govier and J Lloyd have a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, being former customers of the company.

Councillor Thorne has a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, being a friend of the company owner. Also, in relation to any payments to Tindle Newspapers as an employee of the company.

Councillor J Lloyd noted a personal interest in the grant application from Wellington Cricket Club as she is due to become a member.

Councillor M Lithgow also noted a personal interest in the grant application from Wellington Methodist Church as his wife is a member of St John's Ambulance who use the premises as a meeting place.

541 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All the members of public in attendance were in relation to the review of SLAs and Grant Applications. The Chair agreed that Standing Orders would be suspended at the appropriate time to allow public speaking.

542 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2026.

543 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

(a) TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation.

(b) TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE OVER £250 FOR 1 - 31 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED to approve the expenditure.

(c) TO NOTE AND APPROVE CUMULATIVE SUPPLIER EXPENDITURE OVER £500 FOR 1 - 31 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED to approve the expenditure.

(d) TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME RECEIVED 1- 31 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED to approve income.

(e) TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AGAINST THE BUDGET FOR THE 2025-26 YEAR AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED to note and approve the budget report.

544 POLICIES TO REVIEW

(a) GDPR Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the GDPR policy be adopted.

(b) CCTV Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the CCTV policy be adopted with the following amendment:

To change the window of time that digital images should be provided to the police upon request to “as soon as possible but no later than 5 working days”

(c) Councillor Training and Development Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that Councillor Training and Development Policy be adopted.

545 CCTV

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Somerset Council CCTV SLA.

546 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FUNDING

The following were reviewed:

(a) Updated SLA Template

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the updated SLA template is adopted.

(b) Reminiscence Learning

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders.

Representatives of Reminiscence Learning provided an update on their work so far and took questions from Councillors.

Councillor J Thorne noted that there is no mention of the support provided by Wellington Town Council in the accounts report provided.

Councillor J Cole noted that there is no data on the success of the work undertaken by Reminiscence Learning in Wellington.

It was **RESOLVED** to re-instate Standing Orders.

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a 1-year renewal of the SLA with Reminiscence Learning be accepted.

(c) Wellington Community Counselling

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders.

A representative of Wellington Community Counselling provided an update on the work they do and took questions from Councillors.

It was **RESOLVED** to re-instate Standing Orders.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a 1-year renewal of the SLA with Wellington Community Counselling be approved.

Both SLAs shall be subject to a review within the context of the Council's overall Community work and will be reviewed by the Community Committee. This timeline being in line for the Council's future budget setting.

547 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The following grant application were discussed:

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to discuss grant applications with the applicants.

Representatives from Junior Park Run, Wellington Methodist Church and Youth Adventure Trust provided an explanation of their grant applications and took questions from Councillors.

It was **RESOLVED** to re-instate Standing Orders.

Name	Project	Grant Request	Decision
Junior Park Run	Creation/Set Up	£ 4,800.00	It was <u>RESOLVED</u> to recommend approval of this application to Full Council and for the funds to be sourced from the Youth Development Budget.
S Hamer	Kings Arms Community Hub Seated Exercise Class	£ 444.00	It was <u>RESOLVED</u> to not accept this application as the application does not fit the criteria set out in the Grants Policy.

Wellington Methodist Church	Lift Upgrade	£ 2,500.00	It was RESOLVED to approve this application.
Wellington Rugby Club	Summer Together: Reducing Loneliness Through Community Connection	£ 2,500.00	It was RESOLVED to refuse this application as it duplicates work already being funded by the Council at the Kings Arms Community Hub. It was further noted that the accounts provided show significant surplus' over the last two years.
Youth Adventure Trust	YAT Adventure Programme- Explore Days and Activity Day	£ 1,720.68	It was RESOLVED to approve this application. Councillors noted that this organisation should liaise with the Community Development Officer to link with the Cradle to Career project.
Wellington Cricket Club	Youth Cricket Training	£ 850.00	RESOLVED to approve this application.

At this juncture, Councillor K Wheatley gave apologies and left the meeting.

548 RESERVES & ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

It was **RESOLVED** that Council Officers will produce a report for the May 2026 Full Council meeting.

At this juncture, Councillor C Booth gave apologies and left the meeting.

549 TO CONSIDER EXCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude members of the press and public 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 taken from the legislation - Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

550 OPEN SPACES PAPER UPDATE

The Chief Executive provided an update on the process behind the decision to appoint an additional member of staff on the Open Spaces Team which was noted.

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

Signed

Date