

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
AT UNITED REFORM CHURCH ON MONDAY 18 MAY 2026 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillor C Govier-Wiggins (Chair)
Councillors C Booth (from minute 38), J Cole (from minute 38),
A Govier, M Lithgow, G Western and G Williams.

In attendance: Dave Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
Laura Batcha – Community Development Officer
Peter Joint – Community Connect Champion
One member of the press

32 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor C Govier-Wiggins as Committee Chairman for the forthcoming year.

33 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor G Williams as Committee Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

34 APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

There were no apologies.

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

36 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public in attendance.

37 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held 16 March 2026.

38 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

The report from the Community Development Officer was noted.

At this juncture, Councillor C Booth and J Cole entered the meeting.

The Community Connect Champion provided an update regarding the planned 20% reduction in funding for Parent Family Support Advisors (PFSA) starting in September 2026. He noted that the local schools are concerned about this and eager to explore alternative methods/models that could be implemented in light of this.

Councillors discussed the possibilities for the council to provide funding for the first year that funding is reduced to protect the PFSA function whilst exploring other funding streams/models that could be implemented in the 27-28 academic year.

It was **AGREED** that Council Officers would investigate this further and submit a report to the next Full Council meeting detailing the figures involved for the council to fund the PFSA function for the 26-27 academic year as a pilot scheme.

39 DWP ROOM HIRE EXTENSION REQUEST

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the extension of room hire provision at no cost for DWP outreach at the Kings Arms Community Hub until the end of the financial year.

40 CRADLE TO CAREER FUNDING REQUEST

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following to be funded from the Cradle to Career budget:

- The allocation of £7,500 towards Mobile Phone Pouches (part of the Digital Wellbeing Strand).
- Earmarking £7,000 towards the Family Support Strand supporting early intervention and family-based provision aligned with Best Start in Life.
- The allocation of £1,500 towards the Reach Foundation (Historic Commitment).
- The allocation of £4,000 towards the Reach Foundation Accelerator Partnership (3-year access).
- The allocation of £7,000 towards the Reading Town Strand.

41 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REPORT

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Wellington Community Development Strategy & Delivery Plan 2026–2029.

42 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SUMMER PROVISION REPORT

It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of up to £10,380 from the Youth Development budget to support the proposed Summer 2026 youth programme.

Councillors noted that the CEO/Town Clerk already has delegated authority to approve additional expenditure from the Youth Development budget relating to Kings Arms Community Hub room hire subsidy arrangements once final programme arrangements are confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at: 19:20.

Sign.....

Date.....