

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2026 AT 6:30 PM

Present: Councillor C Booth (Chair)
Councillors C Booth, M Lithgow, J Lloyd, M McGuffie, S Pringle-Kosikowsky and G Western.

In attendance: Dave Farrow – Town Clerk/CEO
Darren Hill – Open Spaces Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services and Finance Officer
Steven Saunders – Footpath Volunteer Coordinator
Oliver Hill (for minute 49)
One member of the press
Two members of the public

43 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

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

44 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

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

45 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor G Williams.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

47 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2026.

48 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Two members of the public praised the council for their response to the recent traveller incursion.

49 RECREATION GROUND CALISTHENICS AREA

Oliver Hill delivered a presentation to request the installation of a calisthenics area in the Recreation Ground which was noted.

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with this project in principle and that officers should work up a detailed proposal for further consideration by the Committee. It was noted that the budget for 2026-27 is fully allocated so funding for this will have to be externally sourced.

It was **AGREED** that the council should conduct its own consultation process to determine the location and the desire for this project in the wider community. Disability groups should be part of this consultation to ensure that the project is appropriately accessible.

50 FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders provided an update noting that 22 hours of work has been logged since the end of April, all paths in parish have been surveyed and overgrown paths have been cut.

Councillors noted the update and thanked Steve and the volunteers for their time and effort.

51 OPEN SPACES MANAGER REPORT

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

The Chief Executive will send Councillor McGuffie the details on how to proceed with requests for changes to road markings/parking restrictions parking permits.

Councillors praised the work of the Open Spaces team in maintaining the green spaces in Wellington.

There was some discussion regarding the recent trespassing of travellers in Hoyles Road. Councillors praised Council Officers for acting quickly to ensure that the travellers were moved on within such a short space of time.

Councillors noted the need for further security checks in other green spaces in Wellington to ensure this does not happen again in the future. The Chief Executive noted that going forward, the council needs to be better prepared with more robust procedures to call upon should this happen again.

52 GREEN CORRIDOR RISK REGISTER

The current status of the Risk Register was noted.

53 TREE STRATEGY

The Open Spaces Manager provided an update on the progress of the Tree Strategy which was noted.

A proposal from Councillor M McGuffie to plant ten trees for every child born in the town each year was noted, and councillors were happy for this to be included in the Tree Strategy.

Councillors noted that the Climate Strategy should be discussed at the next committee meeting.

54 THE BASINS ALLOTMENTS ADVISORY BOARD

The minutes of the Advisory Board meeting held on 21st April 2026 were noted.

The following recommendations were considered:

- a) **RESOLVED** to approve the total expenditure as detailed in the Cost Centre Report up to 21st April 2026 and additional costs. Total expenditure: £5205.44

- b) **RESOLVED** to approve the annual rent increase to £34.00 from 30th September 2026 in line with the tenancy agreement.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Basins Allotments Rules and Guidance

55 GREEN CORRIDOR SPACE WALK

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed Space Walk installation in principle. Councillor M McGuffie will consult with the Open Spaces Manager and other Councillors. It was agreed that a more robust proposal will be presented at the July Environment Committee.

56 THE PLAQUE BOARD FOR WELLINGTON PARK

It was **RESOLVED** that there should be no further individual memorial plaques in Wellington Park e.g. on benches or by trees, to protect its Heritage Status.

It was **RESOLVED** that a plaque board should be installed at an appropriate location. Council Officers will investigate a pricing and charging schedule for future approval.

57 LINDEN MEADOW BENCH

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a spend of £200.00 for the installation of a new bench in Linden Meadow.

58 ACQUISITION OF CROWN ESTATE LAND UPDATE

The report and the verbal update from the Chief Executive was noted.

59 REVIEW STANDING WORKING GROUPS

It was **RESOLVED** to reconfirm the Terms of Reference for the below groups.

- (i) Green Corridor Advisory Board: Councillors J Lloyd and S Pringle-Kosikowsky
RESOLVED to Approve.
- (ii) Basins Allotments Advisory Board: Councillors J Lloyd and C Govier-Wiggins
RESOLVED to Approve.
- (iii) Playing Field Joint Working Group: Councillors J Cole, A Govier and J Lloyd,
RESOLVED to Approve.

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

Sign.....

Date.....