



WELLS CITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2026 AT 7PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs: G Folkard (Vice Chair), S Powell, H Siggs, P Welch

IN ATTENDANCE: RFO: C Woodland
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
WCC Cllr: D Denis
MP for Wells and Mendip Hills/Somerset Cllr for Wells: T Munt
1 Member of Public

26/46/F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllr: T Butt Philip, S Cursley, I Von Mensenkampff
Town Clerk: H Wilkins

26/47/F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.
None declared.

26/48/F MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 2026

The minutes for the previous meeting were signed as a true record by the Vice Chair.

26/49/F ACTIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 2026

There were no actions raised.

26/50/F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Cllr Denis reminded the Finance Committee that the Outside Spaces Committee are looking at a Play & Leisure strategy and that there is the S106 money outstanding from the Tesco development into Churchill apartments. There is £40k which should be used by 2029 which she requested to be considered when looking at the finance. Cllr Siggs also stated that it should be considered at Full Council for a full debate as it should incorporate a strategy for the whole city not just the Recreation Ground. The Town Clerk will be requested to include as an agenda item at Full Council.

Mr Chris Simons spoke on two of the agenda items:

- Sponsorship Policy (26/54/F). He requested a more holistic approach to include clear guidelines for 'A' boards and pavement street licences.
- CCTV Provision 2027-2030 (26/55/F). Who pays if a camera breaks? What are the police response times?

The Chair stated Mr Simons comments would be passed to the Town Clerk. Cllr Siggs informed the committee that 'A' boards and pavement street licences are under the responsibility of Somerset Council.

26/51/F FINANCE REPORTING AND VARIANCES FOR WELLS CITY COUNCIL

The RFO gave a verbal update. The April Finance report had not yet been produced due to it being the end of year. This would be distributed in next few days. A forecasting document was circulated. The RFO also gave a summary on this month's expenditure. The first half of the precept has been received.

26/52/F FINANCE REPORTING AND VARIANCES FOR WELLS RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Again the RFO explained there was no written April Finance report due to it being the end of year and this would also be distributed in next few days.

It was mentioned that the Wells Recreation Ground Trust AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd June 2026.

26/53/F FRAUD POLICY

This policy has been implemented following a recommendation in the auditor interim report.

Cllr Folkard stated is was being introduced to protect all in the council, not to catch anyone out. Staff will be provided with the correct training.

Cllr Siggs asked for the Chair of Finance Committee to replace The Mayor in Section 7 when referring to the Police.

A vote was taken and all members present were in favour of taking the new Fraud Policy to Full Council for implementation subject to the above change to item 7.

26/54/F SPONSORSHIP POLICY

The RFO presented the report already circulated.

Cllr Powell stated that the policy was very wordy, could it be summarised. She felt that fees needed to be reconsidered for the baskets and Main Sponsors. Christmas Lights and Markets how would the sponsorship for this work and be advertised?

Cllr Siggs asked how much officer time would it take to actively look for sponsorship?

Cllr Welch queried the definition of sponsorship referred to an 'external organisation', does this exclude individuals and councillors who wish to provide sponsorship?

Also he felt the removal of signs in the High Street stating who was sponsoring was not a good idea. Individuals and businesses would prefer to have their name seen.

Cllr Folkard asked for clarification on when the policy would be reviewed if it was felt to not be working.

This policy was deferred to allow for more clarification.

26/55/F CCTV PROVISION 2027-2030

This item was deferred as the Town Clerk was still awaiting more information.

Cllr Welch stated that removing cameras was not sending the right message to residents that the council are serious about reducing crime in the City.

26/56/F FORWARD PLAN

Item	Proposed date for consideration
RFO Budget Report and Variances	Monthly

26/57/F ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr Folkard stated that significant changes have been made in the way that the Finances are reported. A purchase ledger system is being introduced to allow for more accurate reporting on when the spending is incurred. A further change has been suggested to produce the figures graphically. He asked the committee if they would like to recommend



any additional changes. All were in agreement that the use of figures in a graphic format would be beneficial.

26/58/F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm, Thursday 11th June 2026

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: It is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it was proposed by the Chair that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended to allow a private report.

The committee moved into private session for the following to be discussed.

26/59/F CONFIDENTIAL REPORT: EARMARKED RESERVE (EMR) APPROVAL

Minutes signed by The Chair: **Date:**