

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WELLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM

Written reports can be viewed on agendas: [Wells City Council](#) website

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani (Mayor), T Butt Philip, D Denis (Deputy Mayor), S Eden, G Folkard, T Kolizeras, D Orrett, S Powell, T Robbins, H Siggs, I Von Mensenkampff, P Welch

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: H Wilkins
RFO: C Woodland
Mace Bearer: C Price
WCC Staff: C Hobbs
1 member of the public

25/186/C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs: J Browne, S Cursley, J Edmonds, G Robbins

25/187/C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
None received

25/188/C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER 2025
Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.
Cllr D Denis mentioned that Planning and Advisory Committee meetings have moved the "Actions Outstanding" section to a separate item after the Minutes.
The Town Clerk confirmed that all future committee agendas would follow this order.

25/189/C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
No-one present wished to speak.

25/190/C Council Diary
• Saturday 6th December, Wells Extended Christmas Market from 9am until 3pm
• Thursday 18th December, Full City Council, 6pm will be attended by the Police & Crime Commissioner. Councillors are asked to submit questions to the Town Clerk in advance.
• Thursday 18th December, 7:45pm in Parkes Room, Wells Town Hall. All Councillors, Civic Staff and WCC staff invited to a Christmas Celebration & Civic Awards Evening. (This will follow the scheduled Full Council Meeting). Partners are also invited.

25/191/C Mayor's Diary
i 1st Dec - Wells and Transatlantic Slavery
ii 2nd Dec - Practice Plus Group Hospital Opening Ceremony, Shepton Mallet
iii 6th Dec - Opening of Wells Extended Christmas Market, Cathedral Green
iv 6th Dec - Crib Festival, St Cuthbert's Church
v 6th Dec - Messiah Concert, Wells Cathedral
vi 7th Dec - Santa Fun Run, Market Place
vii 7th Dec - Advent Carol Service for Wells Cathedral School, Wells Cathedral
viii 8th Dec - Somerset Music Christmas Concert, Wells Cathedral
ix 9th Dec - Good Afternoon Choir Christmas Concert, St Thomas Church (Deputy Mayor attending)
x 9th Dec - Almshouses Christmas Carol Service, Almshouses
xi 9th Dec - Cathedral Prep School Christmas Celebration, Wells Cathedral (Deputy Mayor attending)
xii 10th Dec - Age UK Somerset's Carol Service, Wells Cathedral
xiii 10th Dec - St John Ambulance Presentation Evening, St Thomas' Church (Town Crier attending)

- xiv 11th - Dec Grand Organ Appeal Candlelight Recital, Wells Cathedral
- xv 14th Dec - Wells City Band Concert, Cedars Hall
- xvi 18th Dec - Mayor's Christmas Celebration & Civic Awards Evening, Town Hall
- xvii 20th Dec - Christmas with the Rifles, Taunton Minster
- xviii 21st Dec - Carols by Candlelight, Wells Cathedral

25/192/C PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cllr S Powell presented the Minutes of Meetings held on 27th October 2025 (Delegated Authority), 6th November, 10th November 2025 (Delegated Authority), 20th November 2025

No questions received

25/193/C OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr D Orrett presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2025

No questions received

25/194/C ESTATES COMMITTEE

Cllr H Siggs presented the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2025

No questions received

25/195/C STAFFING AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Cllr S Eden presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2025

No questions received

25/196/C FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr T Robbins presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2025

No questions received

25/197/C CIVIC AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Cllr D Denis presented the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th October 2025

Cllr H Siggs strongly objected to major changes to the Town Crier's uniform and requested that his concerns for the significant impact on the Archives budget be registered.

The Mayor reported that there had been adjustments made to the Mayoral Chain. The badge had been made removable so that the chain could be worn on more informal occasions.

25/198/C CORPORATE PRIORITIES ADOPTION

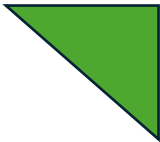
The Town Clerk presented the second draft of the Corporate Priorities document. Produced following a period of public consultation. Although a low figure of 1% contributed, there are some key themes. Play provision, public toilets, civic pride, accessibility, upkeep of Outside Spaces and Climate impact. Comments were made for Wells City Council to be more ambitious. There were also suggestions regarding services which Wells City Council do not provide such as Parking and Highways. Priority No 6 has been split so that more focus can be placed on those areas.

A brief discussion followed regarding timescale for the delivery of the councils key projects. The Town Clerk reported that there was a Management Plan which this information could be shared from and took an action to provide an overview of projects to the Council.

The Mayor proposed that Councillors vote on the adoption of the Corporate Priorities Document. Cllrs voted unanimously to adopt the Corporate Priorities Document.

25/199/C TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

None received



25/200/C TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

Cllr T Butt Phillip reported that the draft budget contains £20 million of savings and £40 million of pressures with a budget gap of £70 million. A lot of work will take place to close that gap. There will be no significant change in services for Wells City Council.

The government boundary commission is in the process of designing new boundaries for the Wards. With an error made during consultation, the date for completion has been changed from 2nd December 2025 to 2nd March 2026.

The planning temporary measures are at an end which made a significant impact on the applications waiting to be processed.

Cllr T Kolizeras asked that now the 12 week measures are over, if it would be easier for members of public be able to contact with a Planning Officer?

Cllr T Butt Phillip responded that he thought so, should it be deemed appropriate.

25/201/C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr P Welch reported that he had been in discussions with Richard Coulter, Founder of The Voice with hopes that the Wells Voice might be able to continue with the potential to manage the Voice from a distance but will require content provided from local sources.

Cllr T Butt Phillip said that he could potentially provide a monthly update. He also paid tribute to Andy Vallis for many years as Editor of the Wells Voice.

Cllr I Von Mensenkampff asked if the recent budget announcements regarding Tourist Tax would have a positive effect on Wells.

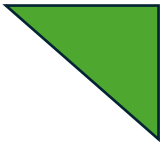
The Mayor responded that he believed this would most like be applicable to Metro Mayors.

All Councillors offered their thanks to Andy Vallis for his hard work on producing the Wells Voice and wish him a happy retirement.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for stepping in to cover appointments recently.

25/202/C FORWARD PLAN

Full City Council Forward Plan	
Item	Proposed date for consideration
Draft Budget Adoption	December 2025
Police and Crime Commissioner, Crime and CCTV overview	December 2025
Corporate Risk Register	February 2026
Annual Governance Review (Inc Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation)	February 2026
Youth Council Proposals	February 2026
Calendar of Meetings and Engagements	March 2026
Preparation for internal audit (Appropriation and Asset List)	March 2026
General Power of Competency	Every political cycle



25/203/C

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be **Thursday 18th December 2025, 6pm**
In attendance Clare Moody, Police & Crime Commissioner

Minutes signed by The Mayor.....Date