

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WELLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD APRIL 2026 AT 7.00PM

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

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani (Mayor), J Browne, T Butt Philip, S Eden, G Folkard, T Kolizeras, D Orrett, S Powell, H Siggs, P Welch

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: H Wilkins
RFO & Mace Bearer: C Woodland
Mayor's Chaplain: Alistair Glanvile
Mayoress: Mary-Ellen Nowell
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
Somerset Cllr for Wells and MP for Wells and Mendip Hills: T Munt
2 Members of the public

26/65/C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: S Cursley, D Denis (Deputy Mayor), J Edmonds, G Robbins, I Von Mensenkampff

26/66/C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared.

26/67/C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH MARCH 2026

Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

26/68/C ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH MARCH 2026

There were no actions to be discussed.

26/69/C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr Chris Simons resident of Wells spoke on two points:

- He asked the council to find a way of publicising on the website the associated documents with council committee agendas.
- On each agenda the council states:
'Wells City Council has declared a climate emergency. Each agenda item must consider the impact on any policy and decision'.

He stated that this was not being followed.

The Mayor thanked Mr Simons for his comments.

26/70/C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sat 2nd May Civic Opening of May Fair 11am
Weds 13th May Mayor Making Rehearsal 1pm
Sat 16th May Mayor Making Ceremony 4:30pm
Weds 3rd June Wells Recreation Ground Trust AGM 7pm



Mayor's Diary

- i. 24th Apr Roman Gallery Launch at Wells & Mendip Museum
- ii. 28th Apr Meeting with the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset
- iii. 29th Apr Faith & Cultural Diversity & Chaplaincy in schools, Flourish House
- iv. 30th Apr WCN Network meeting, The Lawrence Centre
- v. 2nd May Opening of the May Fair
- vi. 7th May Taunton Mayor Making, Taunton Minster
- vii. 11th May WOW Fest concert, St Cuthbert's Church
- viii. 11th May Axbridge Mayor Making, Deputy Mayor attending with Cllr Powell
- ix. 12th May 'Guys and Dolls', Wells Little Theatre

All councillors and staff were invited to join the Mayor and Mayoress in the Town Hall for an 'End of Mayoral Year Thank You' immediately after the meeting.

26/71/C OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr D Orrett presented the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2026.

26/36/OS Cllr Eden wished to discuss the proposed changes to the 20mph scheme proposed for the city. It was agreed to delay this until later in the meeting 26/77/C.

26/72/C ESTATES COMMITTEE

Cllr H Siggs presented the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2026.

Cllr Siggs agreed to follow up with Mr Chris Simons outside of the meeting his concern over climate emergency and the 20mph proposal.

26/73/C FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr G Folkard presented the minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2026.

There were no comments.

26/74/C CIVIC & ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Cllr H Siggs (Vice-Chair) presented the minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2026 in the absence of the Chair, Cllr D Denis.

There were no comments.

26/75/C PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

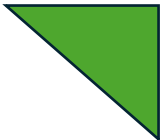
Cllr S Powell presented the minutes of the meeting held under delegated authority on 31st March 2026 and the meeting held on 16th April 2026.

Cllr Powell pointed out that a lot of attention had been received from local residents around the application 2026/0531/OUT. The erection of up to 73 dwellings near Milton Lane. She thanked the committee and officers for the thorough way in which the application had been dealt with.

26/76/C TREE OF LIFE MOSAIC

The Town Clerk presented her report proposing to site the mosaic outside of the library in Union Street with Wells City Council responsible for any ongoing maintenance. It was agreed to delegate to the Town Clerk to sign the license between Wells City Council and Somerset Council for the installation of the art work to the Library building and to delegate to the Town Clerk to sign the MOU between the City Council and the Artist, associated with ongoing maintenance of the artwork.

A vote was taken and it was agreed by all those members present to proceed as stated above.



26/77/C TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND 20 MPH SCHEME WITH ASSOCIATED CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk presented her report. Traffic and highways had reported to Outside Spaces committee as a standing agenda item. Within this, a proposal has been considered for required changes associated with parking and bay amendments as well as a proposed 20mph scheme within the city.

Cllr Eden spoke to stress that a lot of work had gone into forming the proposal and to delay for further consultation is not ideal. Her preference was to run with the proposal and look to make alterations at a later date.

A long discussion took place. Cllr Powell felt it was complicated and did not appear to be very clear to motorists on where the 20mph limits are. Also the area around the Blue School has not been included which is a concern. She also asked if the proposal was returned to extend the 20mph, how long would the delay be.

The Town Clerk explained she has not been able to obtain a timescale and clarification on whether there would be any additional cost for a further consultation has not yet been provided.

Cllr Butt Philip was keen to expand the 20mph further. The current offer is an improvement but he was concerned that lots of residential estates are not included.

Cllr Siggs stated the proposal has his support but without the Blue School being included he felt it was failing the youngsters in the City. This was agreed by Cllr Browne.

Cllr Orrett was not in favour of delaying the proposal any further but was concerned over the speed of the traffic travelling down Bristol Hill into the City.

Cllr Siggs proposed an amendment to accept the scheme as it is, but agree to put any additional finance to speed up the area around the Blue School.

Cllr Butt Philip objected to this as costs were not known. He suggested going back to Somerset to ask what the delays and costs would be and then make a decision.

The Town Clerk agreed to refer back to Somerset Council to seek confirmation on including Lethbridge Rd, Kennion Rd, Milton Lane, Ash Lane, College Road, Bath Road and the Morrisons Estate within the new 20mph proposal and bring back costs and timings to the next meeting.

26/78/C EVENT MARKETS PROPOSALS

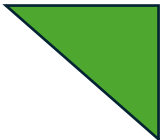
The Town clerk explained this proposal had been presented at both the Estates and Outside Spaces committee meetings to produce an additional events market once per month, during Spring to Autumn.

It was agreed by all members to allow the Town Clerk to take this proposal forward.

26/79/C POLICY ADOPTION

The Town Clerk presented the following policies which had already been considered at the Finance and Outside Spaces Committee:

1. ICT Policy
 2. Data Retention Policy
 3. Freedom of Information Policy
 4. Privacy Policy
 5. Green Spaces Strategy & Pollinator Framework
- All policies were approved by all members present.



26/80/C RESTATEMENT OF AGAR 2024-25

The Town Clerk asked members to note the restatement of AGAR for 2024-25 which had already been endorsed by Finance Committee. The funds from the Recreation Ground Trust were removed, thereby needing to be restated. This has now been signed off and is ready for publication.

This was approved by all members present.

26/81/C Q4 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

The Town Clerk presented the latest risk register, which had also been presented at the Finance Committee meeting and pointed out the following:

- Two new risks No.43 – tenant fire risk and No. 44 listing building permission
- No increased risks
- Three risks Nos 16,20 & 40 have reduced in tolerance
- The following risks were now closed Nos 2, 22, 28 38

This update was noted by all members present.

26/82/C TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports.

26/83/C TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

No report received. Cllr Butt Philip gave a verbal update on the position of the Wells Leisure Centre. Somerset Council has entered a deal with Fusion who have gone into administration for the next 4 months. Preparation is taking place to go to market to keep the centre running for the next two years whilst a long term plan is formed.

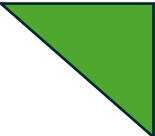
26/84/C FORWARD PLAN

Full City Council Forward Plan	
Item	Proposed date for consideration
General Power of Competency	Every political cycle
Youth Council Proposals	May 2026
Leisure Strategy & Play ITT	May 2026
Committee Delegates	May 2026
CCTV Provision	May 2026
Customer Charter	May 2026

26/85/C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Folkard has had conversations with residents in the east of Wells where there is a new round about at top of Bath Road. There are concerns that the bus service operating in this area is being cancelled. He asked if this was accurate and whether anybody could provide clarification. Cllr Butt Philip advised he is chasing for an update and will keep members informed.

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for the support he has received over his mayoral year. He also thanked Mary-Ellen Nowell for her support as his Mayoress.



26/86/C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be Thursday 21st May 2026, 7pm

Minutes signed by The Mayor.....Date