

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE WELLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21st MAY 2026 AT 7.00PM

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

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: H Wilkins  
Mace Bearer: C Price  
RFO: C Woodland  
WCC Staff: C Hobbs  
Somerset Cllr for Wells and MP for Wells and Mendip Hills: T Munt  
Somerset Cllr for the Mendip Hills: E Hobbs  
Avon and Somerset Sgt Simon Lancey  
Bus user Group Representative: R Kell  
1 Member of the public

**26/87/C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Cllrs: J Browne, G Folkard, G Robbins


**26/88/C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**  
None declared.

**26/89/C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd APRIL 2026**  
Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

**26/90/C ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd APRIL 2026**

Date Raised	Description of Action
23.04.2026	<b>26/69/C</b> A member of the public asked the council to find a way of publicising on the website the associated documents with council committee agendas. Confirmed that this has been actioned as on the agenda tonight, and can be accessed from the website.
23.04.2026	<b>26/69/C</b> A member of the public referenced that the council were not compliant with the consideration of the declared climate emergency. Statement - The Council has declared a Climate Emergency. All reports should include climate implications alongside financial, legal, and community impacts to support informed decision-making and minimise adverse effects. Members are asked to consider whether recommendations align with the Council's corporate priorities, climate emergency declaration, resource constraints, and financial implications.
23.04.2026	<b>26/77/C</b> 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. The Town Clerk confirmed the additional roads have been referred to Somerset Council.

**26/91/C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
Sgt S Lancey gave a brief update on the new members that make up the Neighbourhood Team which cover Wells, Glastonbury and Street. All changes are available on the Avon and Somerset Facebook page and on the Police website. The team are available to meet



members of the public monthly at Wells Town hall. These dates are publicised on the Wells City Council Facebook page. Sgt S Lancey reported that he is in regular dialogue with the Town Clerk.

The Mayor asked for reassurance that female victims of crime are believed treated correctly. Sgt Lancey informed the meeting that VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls) Male violence against girls is a priority for the Police as it is an issue that has been identified. Avon and Somerset Police have pioneered the way that sexual crime has been investigated. Operation Bluestone is now recognised nationally. There is a robust process for dealing with lines of enquiry. Victims will be believed and can have a choice when it comes to which officer they speak with about their allegation.

Cllr S Powell spoke of her concerns for the increases in anti-social behaviour in Wells.

Sgt S Lancey spoke of the lapsed PSPO but asked that any behaviour caused by alcohol and drunken behaviour be reported by 101 or online so that statistics and evidence can be gathered and resources can be targeted. Sgt S Lancey spoke of the work on crimes such as drug taking and dealing, begging and shoplifting and assured that CCTV footage can be accessed to deal with offences.

R Kell (Wells Bus User Group Lead) spoke of the new bus timetables and that the minor changes have caused local schoolchildren arriving in town too early as far as the parents are concerned. R Kell also spoke of the considerable cancellations and breakdowns. Recently there were 22 cancellations on one day, and there has been a case where one child was unable to attend exams. R Kell is meeting with First Bus on the 22nd May 2026 and will be requesting First Bus to be held to account and to like Somerset Council to provide route figures of failures to hold them to account. R Kell also spoke of her concerns for the 173 Bus route during the scheduled roadworks at Whitnall Corner and asked that Somerset Council find a solution.

Cllr T Butt Philip spoke of his wishes to find a solution to the problem with the 173 route and that options are being looked into.

The Mayor summarised that the Town Clerk is aware of a consultation deadline of connectivity mapping and has drafted a response which will be submitted.

Cllr E Hobbs (Somerset Cllr for the Mendip Hills) spoke of his concerns that the majority of defibrillators are stored in locked cabinets. A report recently commissioned by the NHS gave statistics that showed that the majority of incidents requiring a defibrillator are devices that are kept in locked cabinets and that the time wasted by the person being kept on hold to emergency services is severely detrimental to a good survival outcome. Cllr E Hobbs asked that any organisation which has a locked device, to change to an accessible cabinet.

Cllr E Hobbs is taking part in an Everesting cycle challenge on the 20th June 2026 starting at 2pm and will ride up the Old Bristol Rd 48 times to raise £2500 for a defibrillator for Wells Town Hall in honour of fellow Somerset Cllr T Robbins who sadly passed away in February and to raise monies for a cabinet for the defibrillator at Hunters Lodge. A free training session is planned at the Hunters Lodge on the 20th June between 12 and 2pm.

C Simons thanked Wells City Council for addressing his wishes for having access to the attachments which have seemed problematic due to the limitations of the website, but spoke of his frustration that the governance is a responsibility of councillors and that the issue of the website has been recognised for some time.

C Simons also spoke of his concerns for the 173 Bus and for the proposed works at Whitnall Corner. Cllr T Butt Philip reminded C Simons that this is not proposed work by Wells City Council and to discuss with the Somerset Councillor for the Mendip Hills.

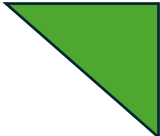
T Munt (Somerset Cllr for Wells and MP for Wells and Mendip Hills) spoke of her concerns for the numerous reports of prolific shoplifting in Wells and that the situation is requiring attention of Avon and Somerset Police.

**26/92/C**

## **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wed 3rd Jun Wells Recreation Ground Trust (WRGT) AGM, Wells Town Hall

**Mayor's Diary**



2nd May Glastonbury Mayor's Day  
24th May Wells Festival of Running, Wells Market Place  
25th May Wells Festival of Running Raffle Draw  
2nd June WCN Volunteers Tea Party, Wells Town Hall  
2nd June Community Awards & Investiture Evening, Street  
6th June Bath Mayoral Ceremony  
6th June Mayor's Charity, Root Connections Open Day  
10th June Ambassador Start of Season Gathering, Wells Town Hall

**26/93/C FINANCE COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Cllr G Folkard, Cllr H Siggs presented the minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2026.

The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to add the debate regarding the play strategy to the June agenda. The Town Clerk assured that the item was on the forward plan for July but that she would have items ready for discussion on the June agenda.

The Mayor asked for information regarding the deferral of the sponsorship policy  
The Town Clerk reported that she is in the process of redrafting the policy and that it will be presented to the Finance committee prior to going to Full Council for formal adoption.

**26/94/C PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Cllr S Powell presented the minutes of the meetings held on 29th April 2026 under delegated authority and the meetings held on 14th May 2026.

Cllr S Powell reported that a member of the Civic society is willing to work in partnership with Wells City Council on the Draft Somerset Local Plan Consultations and Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation period ends on the 24th July. The Planning committee are considering this and will bring findings to Full Council.

The Mayor reported that a Teams meeting regarding the Local plan is scheduled for the 10th June at 4pm and asked that Councillors to attend.

**26/95/C ESTATES COMMITTEE**

Cllr H Siggs presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2026

Cllr D Orrett asked for clarification of the number of members in the working group mentioned in 26/44/E.

Cllr H Siggs informed Cllr D Orrett that 8 members were originally recommended during the brain storming event but that currently there are 4 members.

**26/96/C OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr D Orrett presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2026

Cllr H Siggs asked for clarification on item 26/53/OS regarding the cutting schedule and asked if a road sweeper might be made available. There are 6 mini sweepers in the district that don't appear to be used in Wells. Cllr D Orrett asked the Town Clerk to clarify.

The Town Clerk reported that Somerset's operational team had been contacted and the information is that road sweepers were being used elsewhere or were at the end of their life and no longer viable. The Town Clerk asked for support from Somerset Councillors in the room supporting Wells City Council having access to one.

Cllr H Siggs suggested that using the Sustainable ethos of "Make and mend" that Wells City Council acquired a mini sweeper to repair and make use of for the City of Wells' Outside spaces. Cllr H Siggs asked that Somerset Councillors consider the possibility.

**26/97/C STAFFING & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Cllr S Eden presented the minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2026

No Questions received.

**26/98/C TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVICE ON THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND TO ELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

The Town Clerk announced that the following Councillors had expressed interest to stand



on the committees below.

- Finance Committee - Cllrs: L Agabani, T Butt Philip S Cursley S Eden, G Folkard, S Powell, I von Mensenkampff
- Staffing & Personnel Committee – Cllrs: T Butt Philip, S Cursley, S Eden, J Edmonds, Orrett, S Powell
- Outside Spaces Committee – Cllrs: T Butt Philip, D Denis (Mayor), J Edmonds, K Kinshaw, T Kolizeras, D Orrett, S Powell, G Robbins,
- Estates Committee - Cllrs: L Agabani, S Cursley, G Folkard, T Kolizeras, G Robbins, H Siggs, P Welch, (Vacancy)
- Planning Advisory Committee - Cllrs: L Agabani, J Browne, D Denis (Mayor) S Eden, J Edmonds, G Folkard, D Orett, S Powell, I von Mensenkampff
- Civic & Archives Committee – Cllrs: L Agabani, J Browne, H Siggs, D Orrett, K Kinshaw, P Welch

The Mayor invited the meeting to vote for members of the above committees. The meeting voted UNANIMOUSLY to agree the above committee members.

The following nominations/ votes for committee chairs were made by the respective committees.

Finance Committee - Cllr T Butt Philip nominated Cllr G Folkard as Chair, seconded by Cllr H Siggs. Members voted in favour of Cllr G Folkard as Chair. Vice chair to be appointed at next Finance meeting

Staffing & Personnel Committee - Members voted in favour of Cllr S Eden as Chair

Outside Spaces - Members voted in favour of Cllr D Orrett as Chair

Estates Committee - Members voted in favour of Cllr H Siggs as Chair

Planning Advisory Committee - Members voted in favour of Cllr S Powell as Chair

Civic & Archives Committee - Members voted in favour of Cllr J Browne as Chair

#### **26/99/C STAFF HANDBOOK ADOPTION**

To note the statutory legislation amendments, as endorsed by Staffing and Personnel Committee and vote to adopt the amendments

The Mayor asked for a proposal to adopt the Staff Handbook.

Cllr S Eden proposed, Cllr J Edmonds seconded. Council voted unanimously to adopt the Staff Handbook.


#### **26/100/C FRAUD POLICY ADOPTION**

The Mayor asked for a proposal for adoption of the Fraud Policy  
Council voted unanimously for the adoption of the Fraud Policy.

#### **26/101/C MOTION TO COUNCIL**

Cllr Denis wishes to pass the following motion:

In line with the council's commitment to the Wells & Rural Local Community Network (LCN), I would like to seek Wells City Council's support to a joint funding approach to SALC community health & well-being, for Summer 2026 activities related to young persons.



Cllr H Siggs asked for further clarification on what Wells City Council are being asked to fund. Although supportive in principle, he expressed concerns that the timescale for delivery was too short.

The Mayor reported that it is a call from SALC to aid the smaller parishes and not necessarily to be used in Wells. It is similar to the scoping project last year where Wells City Council would hold the money with permission required for Wells City Council to operate the legalities of it. The likely figure would be £10,000. SALC are willing to work at speed with a provider at speed who can deliver and we are in conversations with neighbouring Town Clerks.

The Town Clerk assured that she will get clarification and that Wells City Council would not be liable for any funding

The Mayor proposed the above motion. Cllr T Butt Philip expressed support and seconded the motion. Councillors voted 11 in favour and 1 Abstention

**26/102/C TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

No reports received

**26/103/C TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS**

Cllr T Butt Philip presented his report.

Cllr K Kinshaw asked for information regarding the progression of the interim bids following the collapse of Fusion.

Cllr T Butt Philip reported that Fusion is continuing until the end of July. A new operator will continue from that point and initially there should be no disruption, staff will be TUPED across, with a wider plan emerging as the two-year period progresses.

Cllr K Kinshaw reported that the Leisure Centre is a valuable asset to the community and although a seamless transition is preferable there are already some challenges, as the Centre cannot provide receipts due to a lack of till roll. The website is poor and there are difficulties in people making bookings. Cllr K Kinshaw encouraged all users to continue supporting the Leisure Centre.

Cllr T Butt Philip thanked Cllr K Kinshaw for the new information and that he would take that back and raise with Somerset and he reiterated Cllr K Kinshaw's comments for people to continue supporting the Centre in the meantime and the need to engage with the wider community

**26/104/C FORWARD PLAN**

The Town Clerk asked the meeting to note that the Leisure Strategy & Play Project Update would be brought forward to June rather than July as stated below.

<b>Full City Council Forward Plan</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Proposed date for consideration</b>
General Power of Competency	Every political cycle
Committee Delegates	May 2026
CCTV Provision 2027-2030	June 2026
Youth Council Proposal	June 2026
Customer Charter	June 2026
Health & Safety Handbook Adoption	June 2026

Internal Audit Report	June 2026
Leisure Strategy & Play Project Update	July 2026
Corporate Risk Register	July 2026
Leisure Strategy & Play Project Update	September 2026
Corporate Risk Register	October 2026
Adoption of Statutory Annual Policy i. Standing Orders ii. Financial Regulations iii. Scheme of Delegation	December 2026
Corporate Risk Register	January 2027
Corporate Risk Register & Annual Risk Profile and Assessment	March 2027
Calendar of Public Meetings	March 2027
Priorities & Project Planning	April 2027

**26/105/C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr L Agabani asked for clarification of the timeline for discussing the Leisure strategy in June. Would this be the entire strategy for discussion?

The Town Clerk responded that it may not be a completed document by June but that she had work had started to draft a Leisure strategy for Councillors to consider.

Cllr P Welch asked for the possibility of filming the upcoming freedom of the city ceremony. The Town Clerk assured the meeting that she would make some enquiries.

**26/106/C DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be Thursday 25th June 2026, 7pm

**Minutes signed by The Mayor.....Date .....**