

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WELLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25th JUNE 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), J Edmonds, G Folkard, K Kinshaw, D Orrett, H Siggs, P Welch

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: H Wilkins
Mace Bearer: G Woodland
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
PC Darren Pearson, Wells Neighbourhood Constable
11 Member of the public

Prior to the meeting starting, the Mayor spoke about a moment of reflection for those in Wells who had been affected by the flash flooding and also those greatly affected by the severe hot weather such as the elderly, the vulnerable and parents with new born babies.

26/107/C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: J Browne, S Eden, T Kolizeras, S Powell (Deputy Mayor), G Robbins, I Von Mensenkampff

RFO: C Woodland

Somerset Cllr for Wells and MP for Wells and Mendip Hills: T Munt

26/108/C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Butt Philip declared an interest with 26/124/C CCTV User Agreement, due to his role as Somerset Councillor.

26/109/C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST MAY 2026

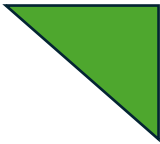
26/91/C Cllr Butt Philip wished to amend that the concerns for the 173 Bus and proposed works at Whitnall Corner should be directed to Highways at Somerset Council. The Town Clerk agreed to alter.

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

26/110/C ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST MAY 2026

The Town Clerk gave an update on the actions listed below.

Date Raised	Description of Action
21.05.2026	26/91/C - Town Clerk to confirm consultation to bus (SOARX) program has been submitted. <i>This should read SCICT. Consultation has been submitted.</i>
21.05.2026	26/93/C – Deferral of the sponsorship policy chased. <i>Now been discussed at Finance Committee and agreed.</i>
21.05.2026	26/96/C – Consideration of small sweeper with Somerset Council. <i>Consultation has been made with Somerset Officers with the support of Cllr Butt Philip.</i>
21.05.2026	26/101/C - Clarification of WCC funding commitment associated with SALC proposal for youth summer provision. <i>This has been provided.</i>
21.05.2026	26/105/C - Update requested for the leisure strategy. <i>Update provided later in the meeting.</i>
21.05.2026	26/105/C – Request to consider filming for the forthcoming Freeman event. <i>This is being explored.</i>



26/111/C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

C Simons questioned the rules around the number of councillors required at a meeting for it to be quorate. No business need be transacted unless one third of the whole number of members of councillor are present and not less than 3. There are 16 councillors on Wells City Council. Mr Simons asked for a review of the standing orders, to look at the numbers required to pass any motion.

The Mayor explained councillors are volunteers, they do not get paid. Attending meetings wherever possible is important, but sometimes other life events do not always allow this to happen. Mr Simons was assured his point will be looked at.

26/112/C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor's Diary

- i. 26th June Picnic, Music and Musings, Bandstand
- ii. 2nd July WCS Symphony Orchestra Echoes of the North, Wells Cathedral
- iii. 3rd July Wells Cathedral School Speech Day
- iv. 3rd July Hilliard Society Exhibition – Private viewing
- v. 10th July WOWFest Opening Ceremony, Cedars Hall
- vi. 10th July WOWFest Concert Carmina Burana, Wells Cathedral

26/113/C FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Folkard (Chair) presented the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting on 11th June 2026.

An amendment has been requested to 26/65/F please could we confirm for future reference that the balance sheet treatment of the Credit Union balance is intended to represent an investment by WCC rather than a donation.

The Town Clerk also explained an amendment was requested to 26/64/F by Mr Simons.

The Finance minutes will be amended and recirculated.

26/114/C PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cllr Agabani (Vice-chair) presented the minutes from the Planning Advisory Committee meetings on 2nd June (delegated authority) and 18th June 2026 in the absence of the Chair. No questions were asked.

26/115/C OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE

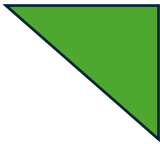
Cllr Orrett (Chair) presented the minutes from the Outside Spaces Committee meeting on 4th June 2026. Cllr Orrett expressed how useful it was to have the Police & Crime update now available. She also pointed out that the Table Tennis table was being installed very soon in the Recreation Ground.

26/116/C STAFFING & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Cllr Edmonds (committee member) presented the minutes from the Staffing & Personnel Committee meeting on 11th June 2026 in the absence of the Chair and Vice-chair. No questions were asked.

26/117/C CIVIC & ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Cllr Agabani (Vice-Chair) presented the minutes from the Civic & Archives Committee meeting on 18th June 2026 in the absence of the Chair. No questions were asked.



26/118/C MAYORS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

PC Darren Pearson is retiring after 25 years of service in the Community of Wells. The Mayor provided a short speech of recognition and thanks on behalf of Wells City Council. A framed certificate was presented and a photograph taken.

PC Pearson then left the meeting.

26/119/C TRANSATLANTIC SLAVERY PRESENTATION

A presentation was provided by the sub group of the Wells & Transatlantic Slavery Group. The group was formed in 2021 with the aim of creating a permanent memorial to the enslaved in Wells. The purpose of the presentation was to:

1. add the Council's logo to their materials.
2. ask for support – such as meeting space, printing agendas/minutes.
3. ask for a councillor to attend their meetings and keep all members updated as to the group's progress

A discussion and vote took place and it was agreed to provide the WCC logo for their materials. The Mayor offered the use of her Parlour for one meeting. The Town Clerk agreed to allow the small amount of printing to be provided and to look at the use of the Community Café at the Portway Annexe for their meetings where there is no charge. Cllr Agabani volunteered to attend their meetings and report progress back to council.

26/120/C TO RECEIVE THE AGAR 2025-26 FOR WELLS CITY COUNCIL

To approve the 2 sections of the AGAR as endorsed by Finance Committee:

- Section 1: Annual Governance Statement
- Section 2: Accounting Statement (Annual Return & Explanation of Variances)

The Town Clerk explained these papers had already been endorsed by the Finance Committee. The Mayor asked for all members present to vote and approve both statements. This was approved by all members present.

26/121/C INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT 2025-26

To receive the Internal Auditor's report and recommendations, and to confirm the dates of the notice of public rights and publication for year ending 31st March 2026 will run from Monday 29th June 2026 to Friday 7th August 2026.

The Town Clerk explained again that this had already been endorsed by Finance. This was noted by all present.

26/122/C LEISURE & PLAY STRATEGY UPDATE

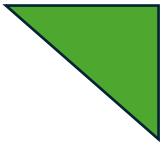
The Town Clerk presented her report, strategy for 2026-2036 and timeline for delivery. A working group will be formed in the next couple of weeks to develop the strategy.

Cllr Kinshaw questioned the climate implications and whether sustainability/adaptive implications should be built in.

Cllr Orrett asked whether external consultation would be obtained. The Town Clerk advised there would be a public consultation but this would be dealt with 'in house'.

The Mayor requested to include more opportunity for youth provision engagement. She also noted the impact on staffing and offered her support with the process of public consultation.

Cllr Kinshaw proposed to agree the Leisure & Play Strategy. This was seconded by Cllr Welch and all members were in agreement.



26/123/C SPONSORSHIP POLICY

The Town Clerk presented her report and sponsorship policy which has also been submitted to the Finance committee.

Cllr Kinshaw requested under climate implications can we mention that we will only engage with those that are sustainable/adaptive.

Cllr Orrett agreed sponsorship was a good idea. She was concerned about the staffing resource. The Town Clerk advised she was comfortable the relevant resource was in place.

Cllr Siggs proposed to accept the sponsorship policy. This was seconded by Cllr Orrett and agreed by all members present.

26/124/C CCTV USER AGREEMENT

Cllr Butt Philip left the meeting for this item to be discussed.

The Town Clerk explained this user agreement has been endorsed by the Finance Committee and will be used to form a three year agreement with Somerset Council.

The Mayor proposed to accept this CCTV User agreement. This was seconded by Cllr Cursley. All members present were in agreement.

Cllr Butt Philip returned to the meeting.

26/125/C YOUTH COUNCIL PROPOSAL

The Town Clerk presented her report. During the time Cllr Browne had been Mayor, she had looked to form a youth council. This report sets out a proposal to create this and engage with schools in September 2026 at the start of the new academic year.

The Mayor stated 6 meetings per year are suggested, she requested to change this to 4 – 6 meetings which was more achievable.

Cllr Agabani proposed to accept the Youth Council Proposal, this was seconded by Cllr Welch. All members present approved.

26/126/C CALENDAR OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

The revised calendar of public meetings June 2026 – May 2027 was presented.

Cllr Butt Philip requested changes during the month of May 2027 around the election date. This was agreed by the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk pointed out the Wells Recreation Ground Trust meeting is scheduled for 24th September 2026. The date was now known for the Bishop Bekynton Service on 10th January 2027. The Cathedral Legal Service may move to a Saturday instead of the usual Sunday to coincide with the market being in operation creating more of a public event.

26/127/C APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE BODIES

The Mayor presented the list of representatives and trustees of Outside Bodies.

The following changes were made:

- Include Citizens Advice – Cllr P Welch
- Wells Twinning Association – Cllr J Browne
- Wells Environment Network – Cllrs S Powell, G Folkard, D Orrett, K Kinshaw
- St Cuthbert's Out Parish Liaison Group – Cllrs D Denis, D Orrett and S Powell
- City of Wells Almshouses Trustees – Cllrs D Denis (Mayor), S Powell, S Cursley
- Wells Transatlantic Slavery – Cllr L Agabani
- Visit Wells – Town Clerk to clarify whether a representative is required



26/128/C TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES
None received.

26/129/C TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS
None received.

26/130/C RESOLUTION – SKATEPARK – COUNCILLOR T BUTT PHILIP

In line with the Council's longstanding support for the redevelopment of Wells Skatepark and the Council's emerging approach to developing a wider play and leisure strategy, the Council will commit £70,000 to the Skate Park Project, in addition to the £30,000 already held as an earmarked reserve. These funds would be allocated from the Council's revenue budget, with £35,000 to be funded from the 2026/27 budget and £35,000 to be allocated in the 2027/28 budget.

Additionally, the Council reaffirms its support for the use of existing s106 money for the Skatepark Project.

Cllr Butt Philip provided additional information to the above proposal and a discussion took place.

Cllr Folkard questioned how this sat alongside the Play & Leisure Strategy, whether the £15k in this year's budget had been formally earmarked for the skatepark, there had not yet been a forecast for 2026/27 so he felt this was too early to agree the £35,000 spend. In addition, the 2027/28 budget was yet to be set so he felt it was not appropriate to agree a £35,000 spend from this.

The Mayor asked how much had been spent from the s106 money on the skatepark already. The Town Clerk confirmed £42,705.79 in 2021/22 had been spent on the skatepark, £23,631 is remaining. There is also a play budget of £33,182.

Both Cllr Siggs and Agabani spoke strongly to council to endorse the proposal, otherwise there was a risk of the new skatepark project not succeeding.

The Mayor proposed to alter the resolution to remove the use of the s106 money for the Skatepark as she felt this should be used as part of the wider Play & Leisure strategy thereby including others who will not use the skatepark. The resolution was agreed to change to the following:

In line with the Council's longstanding support for the redevelopment of Wells Skatepark and the Council's emerging approach to developing a wider play and leisure strategy, the Council will commit £70,000 to the Skate Park Project, in addition to the £30,000 already held as an earmarked reserve, resolving to increase the earmark to the noted £30,000. These funds would be allocated from the Council's revenue budget, with £35,000 to be funded from the 2026/27 budget and £35,000 to be allocated in the 2027/28 budget.

Additionally, the Council reaffirms its support by offering written representation to the project.

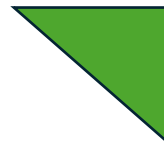
The Mayor asked for the amended proposal from Cllr Butt Philip, seconded by Cllr Siggs to be voted on. Eight gave approval, one refused. The proposal was carried.

26/131/C RESOLUTION – PRIDE CELEBRATION – COUNCILLOR L AGABANI

Wells Pride Committee ask Council to consider the request for free use of the Recreation Ground and Bandstand on 8th August 2026 from 8am to 8pm, to facilitate a social gathering and parade. Council are also asked to show their support by flying the LGBT+ from the Town Hall on the same day and supporting the provision of the flag within the noted procession.

Cllr Folkard asked for clarification on offering free use. Cllr Butt Philip felt that the use of the Recreation Ground and band stand being a public space are a different entity than hiring and paying for council rooms.

Cllr Agabani's proposal was seconded by Cllr Welch and agreed by all members present.



26/132/C FORWARD PLAN

Full City Council Forward Plan	
Item	Proposed date for consideration
General Power of Competency	Every political cycle
Customer Charter	July 2026
Internal Audit Report	July 2026
Leisure Strategy & Play Project Update	July 2026
Corporate Risk Register	July 2026
Leisure Strategy & Play Project Update	September 2026
Events on Council Land Policy Adoption	September 2026
Traffic Management – 20MPH proposal consideration	September 2026
Tree Policy Adoption	September 2026
Health & Safety Handbook Adoption	September 2026
Corporate Risk Register	October 2026
Leisure Strategy & Play Project Update	October 2026
Adoption of Statutory Annual Policy i. Standing Orders ii. Financial Regulations iii. Scheme of Delegation	December 2026
Corporate Risk Register	January 2027
Leisure Strategy & Play Project Update	January 2027
Corporate Risk Register & Annual Risk Profile and Assessment	March 2027
Calendar of Public Meetings	March 2027
Priorities & Project Planning	April 2027

26/133/C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Kinshaw asked whether consideration to the Somerset Chairs' awards had been made. The Town Clerk advised that only one valid application had been put forward and that this would be submitted within the timescales.

26/134/C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be Thursday 23rd July 2026, 7pm

Minutes signed by The Mayor.....Date