

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD JULY 2025 AT 6:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: S Eden, D Orrett (Chair,) S Powell

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: H Wilkins
Outside Spaces Officer: M Johnson
WCC Cllrs: L Agabani (Mayor), H Siggs
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
MP for Wells and Mendip Hills/Somerset Cllr for Wells: T Munt
1 member of the public

25/15/OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllrs: T Butt Philip, D Denis, G Robbins

25/16/OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

**25/17/OS ACTIONS FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
5TH JUNE 2025**

No actions were needed.

**25/18/OS MINUTES FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
5TH JUNE 2025**

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

25/19/OS MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chris Simons raised the issue of traffic in the Market Place. He is concerned that signage to access The Crown, Bishop's Palace, Town Hall is not clear for visitors. The Town Clerk responded and explained consideration has been taken in line with Martyn's Law which was introduced this year to improve protective security in publicly accessible locations. Also a TTRO application has been submitted for the Market Place to improve the signage at the conduit and explain it is a pedestrian area. This should be in place in the next two weeks. The Christmas market is also being planned with advice from Avon & Somerset Police on traffic management and traffic management training is being provided for staff. Temporary removable barriers are being explored ensuring businesses in the area continue to have access.

25/20/OS UPDATE FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES OFFICER

The Outside Spaces Officer provided an update. Work has been carried out on newly transferred assets to bring up to a good standard. They are now on top of grass cutting. A visual map has been created to clearly show the areas of responsibility between WCC and Somerset Council so we can be clear with the public where our boundaries are. They have been assisting Somerset Council with white lining in the City. The Mayor asked will the public notice a difference with how the new assets are managed. Town Clerk explained they had already received positive feedback. WCC do not manage the grass cutting around the moat walk, but we have been asked to support. Currently this is looked after by Somerset Council. They are looking at an algae fertiliser to improve the quality of the grass. Cllr Powell asked for an update on the Table Tennis table due to be installed in the Recreation Ground. The Town Clerk explained she had put this project on hold, until the outcome of the Governance process for the Recreation Ground.

25/21/OS TRAFFIC UPDATE AND PARISH PROPOSALS

The Town Clerk provided an update. Ash Lane/Ash Grove proposals are with the relevant Somerset Officers and we are awaiting feedback.

The Outside Spaces Officer has undertaken a review of all cobbles in the entire Market Place and made a log of all areas outside of tolerance. This has been sent to Highways and they are awaiting a response.

Cllr Munt questioned the quality of the work carried out in Union Street, outside the bakery and bus station. The Town Clerk explained these have been raised within the feedback given. Cllr Munt stated she would also follow this up.

A white lining review within the City was undertaken by the Outside Spaces Team and results have been fed back to Highways.

25/22/OS ALLOTMENT REVIEW

The Outside Spaces Officer presented his report. We have 60 plots available and a large waiting list of 85 residents.

The Mayor asked how much acreage was in Barnes Close/Burcott Road. It was agreed to report back on this.

Cllr Orrett felt the annual cost of the allotment rental was good value, possibly in need of review.

Cllr Powell asked if larger plots could be halved. The Outside Spaces Officer confirmed this was already happening.

Cllr Siggs advised it takes about five years after purchasing land for allotments to be prepared for renting.

It was agreed for some benchmarking on fees to be carried out and brought back to this committee.

25/23/OS FORWARD PLAN

Item	Proposed Date for Consideration
Devolution Update and land confirmation	June 2025
TTRO for Market Place - update	July 2025
Allotment Review	July 2025
Events of Council Land	September 2025
Climate Strategy	October 2025
Recreation Ground Trust AGM feedback	?date for AGM

25/24/OS ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr Powell asked when the bus station planters will be planted. The Town Clerk agreed to follow this up.

25/25/OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 4th September 2025, 6pm, Wells Town Hall

Minutes signed by The Chair: Date: