



WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2025 AT 6:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Butt Philip, D Denis, S Eden, J Edmonds, T Kolizeras,
D Orrett (Chair), S Powell

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: H Wilkins
Outside Spaces Officer: M Johnson
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
MP for Wells and Mendip Hills/Somerset Cllr for Wells: T Munt
3 members of the public

25/39/OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Cllr G Robbins

25/40/OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.

None declared.

**25/41/OS ACTIONS FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
4TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

25/30/OS Cllr Powell asked what progress had been made in reducing the speed limit around local schools to 20mph. The Town Clerk advised they had agreed to scope out the work involved and present the costs to Finance Committee. This will be presented at the next meeting scheduled for 9th October.

25/31/OS Cllr Orrett asked for clarification on the map of responsibility areas between WCC and Somerset Council. The Town Clerk provided clarification. It was agreed to improve the map 'key' information.

Cllr Orrett also asked for an update on hand weeding in the Bus Station area. The Town Clerk advised resource had not allowed for this to be actioned to date. It was pointed out that this could be something included on the volunteers list. Cllr Edmonds also asked who was responsible for weeding around the front of the Cathedral. The Town Clerk advised there was some ambiguity around this and therefore a Memorandum of Understanding is in the process of being formed.

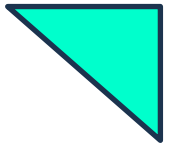
25/36/OS Cllr Orrett pointed out that the Allotment Review, WIB sponsorship and Extended Christmas Market had not been included in the Forward Plan. The Town Clerk apologised for this oversight and confirmed this will be included for next month.

25/37/OS Cllr Orrett asked for an update on the MAP board at the bottom of Queen Street and the triangle at the bottom of the High Street. The Town Clerk has received the proposed text and has approval from Somerset Council, this will be installed shortly.

Cllr Orrett asked for an update on the bench outside the Old Post Office. WCC have been given permission by Somerset Council to remove and re-install elsewhere. The new Italian restaurant will open in the next couple of weeks.

**25/42/OS MINUTES FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
4TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

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



25/43/OS MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

E O'Sullivan, resident in Ash Lane, spoke and raised the issue of crossing from Ash Lane into College Road, at the bottom of Bristol Hill. In the last few weeks there has been a collision with a vehicle and a school pupil has been knocked down. There are a lot of children/parents crossing daily and it is very dangerous. She strongly felt that a crossing should be introduced and is in contact with the local schools to this effect. MP Munt advised she had raised this on a number of occasions and pleaded with everyone to ensure every incident/accident/near miss should be reported. If nobody reports, it is not measured as an issue. She suggested that Somerset Councillor Butt Philip and her write to all residents highlighting the issue and that everyone should report every incident, they will investigate introducing a 20mph speed limit, a crossing or foot bridge.

Cllr Kolizeras reported that the traffic lights are on a long time wait, children get impatient and cross before it is safe. MP Munt agreed to also look into this.

B Mealing pointed out that a lot of cars heading towards Bristol Hill, turn right into College Road when there is clearly a 'no right turn' sign. MP Munt again stressed the need to keep reporting these incidents.

E O'Sullivan also advised that there was an abandoned vehicle in Ash Lane. It has been there for six months and the MOT runs out shortly. The Town Clerk advised this should be reported via the Somerset Council website.

25/44/OS UPDATE FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES OFFICER

The Outside Spaces team have had a lot of grass cutting to do during the month of September.

Wells in Bloom plants have lasted very well over the summer months. One pole has had to be removed in Broad Street due to an accident with a bin lorry. A review of all planting posts is being undertaken as some are rusted. Costs are being sourced to consider carrying out remedial work over the winter.

A new market manager is now in post and has brought with him lots of knowledge of markets.

A 'lean to' in the Recreation Ground has been removed as it was damaged.

The number of rough sleepers has reduced, most probably due to the change in the weather.

Fencing has been replaced at the Bignal Rand park as posts had rotted.

Pathways have been cut in at Tor Hill Woods.

They have been supporting the cemetery with strimming.

The winter Wells in Bloom planting will start shortly.


They are taking a review of all new assets and getting to know what is involved.

Japanese knotweed has been found and needs to be managed appropriately.

Cllr Powell has noticed older children congregating in the playpark in the Recreation Ground in the evening. She stressed the need to provide something in the area suitable for older children.

The Cemetery

Cllr Orrett advised that she had recently visited the cemetery grounds with Cllr Kolizeras and expressed how pleasant the area is. The Town Clerk stated that it is a spectacular asset and as a council we can in the future look at Green Flag awards for cemetery services, which is an aspiration of WCC officers.



Cllr Denis stated that a number of trees were planted at the cemetery around 3/4 years ago and asked whether there were any plans to plant more trees to create a woodland burial area. The Town Clerk explained a strategy was being developed along with St Cuthbert Out for the cemetery area, incorporating this idea.

Cllr Kolizeras asked for her appreciation to be sent to the Cemetery Manager and team, for the work they are doing.

25/45/OS CITY TRAFFIC UPDATE

The Town Clerk ran through the traffic projects table and provided an update. New signage is being created for the Market Place. MP Munt requested that the signage state “pedestrian friendly” zone. The Town Clerk agreed to follow this up.

Cllr Denis stated that the contact details for reporting a highways issue has changed. The Town Clerk agreed to provide a crib sheet on the new process.

The Town Clerk has been contacted by a member of the public who lives in North Road. He is very concerned over the safety of his family at his address and has requested a small safety mirror be placed outside his house. Councillors were asked to take a look at some pictures provided at the end of the meeting but her recommendation was to endorse the addition of the mirror.

25/46/OS WRGT OPERATIONAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Town Clerk advised there was no specific update.

Cllr Denis asked for an update on the table tennis table planned for the area. The Town Clerk agreed to move this project forward.

25/47/OS FORWARD PLAN

Item	Proposed Date for Consideration
Events of Council Land	October 2025
Climate Strategy	November 2025
Play Strategy Development	December 2025

As previously mentioned Allotment Review, WIB sponsorship and Extended Christmas Market will be included on the forward plan for next month.

25/48/OS ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr Orrett thanked the Town Clerk for all her hard work.

Cllr Denis pointed out that the finger post near the Good Earth is wrongly directing the way to the Post Office. The Town Clerk will look into.

Cllr Denis also stated that there was £1,000 received from the Act to Adapt Plan. The council need to decide what project this money will be used for. Examples given were flower bed planting on the Recreation Ground, an educational area at Keward for use by local schools, Tor Hill Lane tree planting or cemetery tree planting. A decision will need to be made.

The Town Clerk advised an area of concrete in the Recreation Ground had been removed after a member of public had fallen.

Also meetings had taken place with the owner of Park Cottage and the Somerset Tree Officer to discuss the trees on the boundary of the property. Surveys have been completed which show there is no disease. Some remedial work will be carried out and a position of understanding has now been reached.



Cllr Orrett advised a Vice-Chair was required for this committee due to the extended absence of Cllr G Robbins. *Cllr Eden has since volunteered to cover this whilst Cllr G Robbins is absent.*

Cllr Orrett also advised she had met with a bicycle repair mobile operator and thought it would be beneficial to invite him to the city. This was agreed.

25/49/OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6th November 2025, 6pm, Wells Town Hall

Minutes signed by The Chair: Date: