



WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2025 AT 6:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: H Wilkins
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
WCC Cllrs: H Siggs
MP for Wells and Mendip Hills/Somerset Cllr for Wells: T Munt
1 member of the public

25/69/OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllrs: J Edmonds, T Kolizeras, G Robbins

Outside Spaces Officer: M Johnson

25/70/OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.

None declared.

25/71/OS MINUTES FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2025

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

25/72/OS ACTIONS FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2025

25/41/OS The Town Clerk advised the new noticeboard was now in place at the bottom of the High Street to support local business in that area of the City. A tidy up of the planting in the triangle will be carried out.

Cllr Orrett advised business in Priory Road have not been included within the new signage. The Town Clerk agreed to look into.

25/59/OS Cllr Denis asked if the new allotment tenancy rules had been sent out. The Town Clerk advised this had been done and there had been a change of Chair of the Palace Allotment lets who is helping to enforce the rules in that area.

25/61/OS Cllr Denis asked if there had been any further development on the cemetery provision and strategy development. The Town Clerk advised they have now established that the agreement in place requires a 12-month consultation before any changes can be made. Conversations with St Cuthbert Out have started. Any new income will not now be received until 2027/28 which has been reflected in this next year's budget.

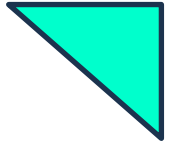
25/65/OS Cllr Denis asked is there would be a meeting for the Wells Recreation Ground Trust. The Town Clerk advised this would take place in the new year.

25/58/OS Cllr Powell asked about the rough sleepers within the Recreation Ground and in the City as numbers appear to be rising. The Town Clerk stated it is a situation that needs to be managed carefully and support given where appropriate.

25/73/OS MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr Hornidge spoke on behalf of L Byrne to ask for an update on the exit from South Street car park into the Recreation Ground. The Town Clerk advised that the dog waste bin is being moved to encourage users of the area to enter/exit the park via the main footpath.

Mr Hornidge also raised the issue of lack of signage in and around the Bishop's Barn area. He felt that visitors to the city don't know the barn exists. He also questioned the number of cars parking around the barn which is obscuring the view. The Town Clerk agreed to look into signage, along with other proposals for this area.



25/74/OS UPDATE FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES OFFICER

The Town Clerk provided an update on behalf of the Outside Spaces Officer.

- The final grass cutting took place in November, cuts went on later due to the warmer weather.
- The winter plant out was carried out last week.
- Winter equipment maintenance is now being focused on during the colder months and a list will be provided to all councillors of all equipment being maintained.
- To control safety and visibility hedges are being cut, councillors were asked to report any areas that they know are a concern.
- The Outside Spaces Team have been heavily involved in preparing for the Extended Christmas Market on Saturday 6th December, in erecting the Christmas lights in the City and supporting stewarding at Wells Carnival.
- A number of benches are being restored to increase their longevity.

Mr Hornidge advised the band stand in the Recreation Ground was in desperate need of some maintenance. The Town Clerk agreed to look into.

Cllr Denis asked for an update on the table tennis table due to be installed in the Recreation Ground. A discussion took place on its location as a new drought bed is also to be introduced in the area. All members agreed to place the table along side the fitness equipment area moving it away from the small children's play area.

Cllr Powell felt strongly that the Wells Recreation Ground area requires a clear vision. The Town Clerk agreed, reassurance was given that this would be a priority in the new year.

25/75/OS EVENTS ON COUNCIL OWNED LAND POLICY

The Town Clerk presented the report prepared by the Outside Spaces Officer.

Cllr Butt Philip asked for clarification on a Non-Wells Charitable Organisation and questioned whether it was necessary to be charging. It was discussed, whether the cost be associated with the size of the event. Clarification on the rationale was requested. The Town Clerk agreed to bring further clarification to the next meeting.

25/76/OS CITY TRAFFIC UPDATE

The Town Clerk provided an update. Wells City Council have met with Somerset Council to agree and discuss the 20mph speed limit. It was agreed that at the next Accessible Wells meeting in January it will include a 'walk around' with Somerset Council to look at the speed limit proposal and also to assess disabled parking bay implications. This will result in one consultation and change with a view to delivering one scheme.

The temporary traffic order in the Market Place is now a sealed order. Now need to arrange amended signage for early January installation. If time allows the signage wording will be shared with councillors. Cllr Munt stated that this issue had previously been discussed and it was agreed the police parking space would be maintained at the front of the Market Place and bays would be provided for disabled parking. The Town Clerk confirmed the police parking would be maintained and invited Cllr Munt to attend the planned 'walk around' in January to join the assessing of disabled parking.

There was a concern around the St Thomas Street weight restriction. The TTRO is now back in place and police are now able to enforce this.

Discussions regarding white lining generally and yellow lines in Ash Lane in the school drop off area. Some works are completed, others planned for early in next year. These will be assessed during the planned 'walk around'.



Bids have been put in for Speed Indicator Devices (SID). Funds are depleted, will need to re-submit 1/4/2026.

Cllr Eden advised the dropped kerbs will be installed around the City. There is a meeting arranged for January to address the issue of regular dog fouling in the City.

25/77/OS PROPOSAL FROM CLLR DENISE DENIS

Tree planting/replacement trees on Tor Hill - reference Act To Adapt part 1. Improving and Increasing Green Spaces.

Can Wells City Council develop a project in conjunction with volunteers and community groups to plant a new area of trees and replace the dead ones in the Tor Hill area adjacent to the Cathedral School sports field opposite Bekynton Avenue.

Cllr Denis presented her proposal. Cllr Munt who is involved in an exercise called 'Slow the Flow' for Re-imagining the levels, stated she was keen to support.

All members were in agreement for the proposal to proceed.

25/78/OS WRGT OPERATIONAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

This was already discussed earlier in the meeting.

25/79/OS FORWARD PLAN

Item	Proposed Date for Consideration
Climate Strategy	January 2025
Play Strategy Development	January 2025
Bereavement Strategy	January 2025
WRGT Development	January 2025

25/80/OS ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr Denis advised the LCN will advise some dates in February to discuss emergency planning for the levels with the Somerset River Authority. Councillors were asked if they wished to attend.

Cllr Denis advised the LCN Act to Travel had met and the Priory Road crossing is hopefully being given priority.

Cllr Denis is looking with Somerset Council at accessibility at the Tor Hill area. New path surfacing is needed.

Cllr Eden raised the issue of Fly Tipping at Charter Way. The Town Clerk was aware and agreed to update once more was known.

The Town Clerk advised there would be two memos of understanding at the next meeting for Tor Hill Lane and Black Dog Gardens.

25/81/OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 5th February 2026, 6pm, Wells Town Hall

Minutes signed by The Chair: Date: