

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026 AT 6:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: H Wilkins
WCC Staff: C Hobbs
MP for Wells and Mendip Hills/Somerset Cllr for Wells: T Munt
3 members of the public

26/18/OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllrs: J Edmonds, G Robbins (Vice Chair)
Apologies sent from Outside Spaces Officer M Johnson

26/19/OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

26/20/OS MINUTES FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2026

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

26/21/OS ACTIONS FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2026

Cllr S Eden clarified the issues that had been discussed in 26/08/OS regarding the Police and Crime update and the operational powers of a PCSO. Cllr S Eden clarified that Special Constables have the same powers as a paid officer. A PCSO does not have the power of arrest but can issue fixed penalty notices for traffic offences, anti-social behaviour, littering. (there are variations between forces). A PCSO can ask that people remain with them until a Police Officer attends and ask for names and addresses.

Cllr D Denis reported that the Cathedral School alongside the Re-imagining the levels volunteers will be hedge planting on the 11th March between 1.30 and 4pm if anyone would like to join them.

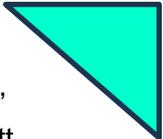
Cllr D Denis reported that MP T Munt raised an issue about the necessity for identifying a new location for the Freecycle event. Cllr D Denis suggested using the upper area of Waitrose car-park for the event on a Sunday morning, between 9am and 11am. The Town Clerk will commence dialogue with Waitrose regarding the suggestion.

Cllr D Denis asked for an update regarding the tree planting on Torr Hill land? Is there a date identified.

The Town Clerk said that Outside Spaces Manager has been in touch with the recommended supplier who can supply the whips. There are concerns that as the whips are small that they may not survive. The previous trees planted by Mendip Council did not last more than a couple of weeks as they were eaten by deer within a short time. At a slightly increased cost, there are larger whips available which are likely to be more sustainable. The supply is not from the supplier originally discussed. It was agreed to proceed with larger planting.

The Town Clerk reported that as the weather has been slightly drier that the placement of the Tennis table is proceeding.

The faulty lock to the Bishops Palace allotment gate has been repaired and is being monitored regularly.



Cllr D Orrett thanked the Town Clerk for her planned response to the “Green Lane” proposal which plans possible changes to the road layout and access along Burcott Lane. Town Clerk agreed to chase a response to the questions posed.

26/22/OS MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

R Evans asked that space be considered for additional allotments. She suggested an area near the playpark at Tor Lane, believed to be underused as a play area. The Town Clerk confirmed that Wells City Council are in the process of developing a Leisure and Play strategy which will take allotments into account and how green and open spaces are developed for the use of all. R Evans also spoke of a large Lime tree near her property and who would be responsible should a branch fall and damage property. The Town Clerk will check responsibility and see on whose land the tree stands.

A brief discussion took place regarding the number of allotments and the length of the waiting list. The Town Clerk will bring some proposals at the next meeting as to actions that might be taken.

26/23/OS REPORT FROM OUTSIDE SPACES MANAGER

The Town Clerk presented the report provided from the Outside Spaces Manager. The focus has been on winter maintenance, painting of goal posts and renovating benches. Grass cutting commenced on the 4th March 2026.

The Great British Spring Clean has been successful to date. Data on this and other key performance indicators will be collected and presented to committee.

Routine inspections take place as usual and all areas remain compliant.

The bandstand will be repaired/painted as soon as the weather improves. The work on the benches is 50% complete. There are some in the recreation ground requiring attention and the bench outside the restaurant in the market place will be relocated when a site has been identified.

The bin restoration has been commenced within the recreation ground and the bins will be returned shortly. That programme will continue until all completed.

Drainage checks took place at the bus station to support Somerset services. The location is blocked by tree roots but clearing debris worked partially.

The creation of procedures and job sheets are on-going and will allow us to manage time more effectively and plan for specific works, as well as identifying additional value areas for targeted work. The process is building so that data will be available such as volume of grass cut, amount of litter picked etc.

Cllr T Butt Philip reported that a Somerset drainage contractor will visit Wells Bus station to assess the aforementioned drainage issue. He welcomed the work schedule being in place so that the public could start to see and appreciate the work that is happening and we can collectively identify added value works across the city.

Cllr Orrett reported that 60 bags of litter were collected across the City at the most recent pick. Cllr D Orrett reported that two of the volunteer litter pickers cleared the area of the stream next to Lidl. They also have found a lot of what looks like expanding foam which requires clearing. There are two or three areas affected. The Town Clerk said that she would inform the Outside spaces of the issue and determine if support could be provided.

26/24/OS TRAFFIC, PARKING AND HIGHWAYS UPDATE

The Town Clerk said that WCC are awaiting the draft proposals from Somerset Council for the 20mph zones, following which consultation will be completed. This will include



proposed amendments for changes to loading and disabled bays at multiple locations around the city. The proposals are likely to come to the next meeting for consideration.

The Portway dismount cycling sign has been added to the list.
The drop kerb at St Cuthbert Street has a temporary repair on both sides of the road.

26/25/OS POLICE AND CRIME UPDATES- STANDING AGENDA ITEM

Report was circulated which is information available on the Avon and Somerset website. Following increased engagement greater number of surgeries are taking place. The PCSO's are planning to be located in the Town Hall regularly on a Wednesday. A banner will be displayed to show that they are in situ.
The report showed the crime statistics showing most commonly reported crimes. Shop lifting figures have gone down significantly. The Chief Inspector is keen to establish Shop-watch and innovation grants are being explored to support this and speed indication devices (SIDS).

26/26/OS PRIORITIES FOR 2026-27

D Denis asked if Wells in bloom planters and sponsorship ought to be included on this agenda?
The Town Clerk assured that it would be added to the next month's agenda as a draft policy for sponsorship is to be considered.

A discussion took place about nominating two representatives from this meeting and two from the Estates Committee to form a working group to discuss items pertaining to the Wells Recreation Ground Trust.
Cllr D Orrett asked for two expressions of interest to take up these positions.
Cllrs: S Eden and S Powell volunteered to be representatives from Outside Spaces.

26/27/OS FORWARD PLAN

Topic	Month
Ground care strategy including green space audit, sustainability, climate impacts and wider environmental sustainability	March 2026
Leisure & Play Strategy	June 2026

26/28/OS ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr S Eden mentioned that she is happy to continue as Vice Chair position as is necessary.

Cllr D Denis spoke about the 174 bus timetable which had scheduled children to be in Wells an hour ahead of school commencing. The Town Clerk will draft a letter to First bus.

Cllr D Denis reported that WEN have a new Chair. They are happy to advise about connectivity in Wells. He has considerable experience. The Town Clerk expressed her willingness to share her contact details with him.

Cllr D Denis asked if a risk assessment would be needed should volunteers carry out work on beds at Portway Annexe and recreation ground. The Town Clerk said that it would be necessary and that there are forms available.

26/29/OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 2nd April 2026, 6pm, Wells Town Hall

Minutes signed by The Chair: Date: