

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2026 AT 6:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Outside Spaces Officer: M Johnson
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
MP for Wells and Mendip Hills/Somerset Cllr for Wells: T Munt
No members of the public

26/30/OS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllrs: S Eden, J Edmonds, T Kolizeras, G Robbins (Vice Chair)

Town Clerk: H Wilkins

26/31/OS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

None declared.

26/32/OS MINUTES FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2026

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

26/33/OS ACTIONS FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2026

26/21/OS An update was requested on identifying the new location for the Freecycle event. It was felt that the Market Place would be appropriate. The Outside Spaces officer agreed to refer to the Town Clerk and report back to the committee.

26/26/OS It was requested to include Wells in Bloom planters and sponsorship on this month's agenda, which has been omitted. It was agreed to ensure the item was included for the next meeting.

26/34/OS MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No public were present.

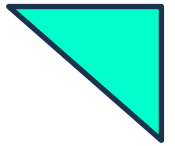
26/35/OS REPORT FROM OUTSIDE SPACES MANAGER

The Outside Spaces Manager presented his report.

Approval was sought to amend the Council's herbicide policy to ensure consistency across all of the landholdings, including allotments. Cllr Butt Philip asked whether allotment holders had been consulted about this change. It was confirmed this hadn't happened, it was agreed that a letter notifying all allotment holders should be sent, asking for comment within two weeks. The Outside Spaces Officer agreed to implement.

26/36/OS TRAFFIC, PARKING AND HIGHWAYS UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT 20MPH SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED CONSULTATION

In the absence of the Town Clerk, the Chair presented her Traffic Parking and Highways report. Cllr Butt Philip questioned whether the 20mph scheme should be introduced for the whole city. It was felt that there needs to be clear boundaries whether the 20mph restrictions will be in place and where there are exceptions.



26/37/OS POLICE AND CRIME UPDATES

The Chair presented the report provided by the Town Clerk in her absence. All were in agreement with the recommendation to use and distribute the crime statistics and information to aid local understanding of the police services within Wells.

Cllr Powell felt that there had been an increase in drug dealing within the city. Cllr Munt commented that drunk behaviour, shoplifting in the High Street and property theft was also on the increase.

It was agreed to ask Simon Lancey, Neighbourhood Sergeant to attend the next meeting to enable these issues to be raised and discussed with him.

26/38/OS EVENT MARKET PROPOSALS

The Outside Spaces Officer presented his report stating that Wells City Council will deliver a pilot monthly Sunday market in the Market Place.

It was suggested that any Sunday dates chosen for Wells should avoid those being used by neighbouring Towns such as Shepton Mallet and Frome. It was also requested that evening markets be considered.

All committee members were in agreement to proceed with the recommendations in the report to deliver a pilot monthly Sunday market for a period of 6-8 months during Spring, Summer and Autumn 2026, seek approval for the additional expenditure for the operation and delegate to the Town Clerk to deliver.

26/39/OS MAP BOARD PROPOSAL

The Outside Spaces Officer presented his report regarding the map boards placed throughout the city. A decision had already been made to no longer dispense maps through coin-operated mechanisms attached to the boards. These are now available within the Tourist Information Centre. It is therefore proposed to remove this mechanism to improve the appearance of the boards and allow for better use, such as advertising and sponsorship. It was also recommended to completely remove the map board placed outside the Town Hall to allow for greater flexibility in the area for the outdoor market and improve the photo opportunity for weddings.

All committee members present were in agreement for the officers to take these actions forward.

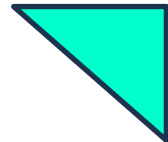
26/40/OS STRAWBERRY LINE SIGNAGE

The Chair presented the Town Clerks report on the new signage for the Strawberry Line. The Strawberry Line Society are looking to introduce signage along the 29-mile route for visitors and users to identify communities along the route. The report asked the committee to consider replacing signage along the path to mark the entrance/exit into Wells.

The Committee agreed to support this proposal and approach the Finance Committee for funds at £1,000 per sign. Those being the most premium for longevity.

26/41/OS OUTSIDE SPACES STRATEGY

The Outside Spaces Officer presented his report defining a Green Spaces Strategy and Pollinator Action Framework. Implementing the Green Spaces Strategy will provide the council with a clear and consistent framework for managing its land. Adopting the Pollinator Action Framework will strengthen this approach by ensuring that biodiversity and habitat considerations are built onto the Council's management of green spaces where appropriate.



Cllr Powell asked if there was a map available to show which areas are our responsibility and would therefore identify what would be managed using this new strategy. The Outside Spaces Officer agreed to supply.

The Chair suggested approving the proposal to define the Green Spaces Strategy and Pollinator Action Framework but also await the map mentioned above. This was agreed.

26/42/OS ALLOTMENT TURN OVER & INFORMATION PAPER

The Outside Spaces Officer had prepared a report detailing the Council Allotment Tenancy Rules which sets out the standards expected of all plot holders across the three allotment sites. This framework allows for the fair management of the sites. There are currently over 80 people on the allotment waiting list and it is therefore vital to ensure that all rented plots are genuinely occupied, actively cultivated and managed in line with the rules.

A review of all plots is being undertaken and where necessary plot holders will be asked to bring the plot up to the standards required and if this is not actioned, the plot will need to be returned to the council and in time re-let.

The committee were in agreement for officers to make these enforcements. It was also requested that the annual rental for allotment sites be reviewed at next annual renewal. The Outside Spaces Manager advised the Town Clerk would be reviewing all rental charges for annual renewal in Sept/Oct 2026.

26/43/OS CCTV PROVISION 2027-2030

The Town Clerk’s report was presented by the Chair detailing CCTV proposals for 2027 – 2030.

Cllr Powell queried whether we had to pay for all cameras being offered or whether we could selectively choose and were there any statistics on the use of the cameras. It was agreed to refer back to the Town Clerk for further clarification and report back to the committee.

26/44/OS PORTWAY ANNEXE PLANTING MOTION

Cllr Denis proposed the following:
Following work completed by volunteers,

I wish to request that the committee consider allocating budget from the Outside Spaces Revenue budget for planting scheme at the Portway Annexe, delivered by the volunteer group. The planting scheme would utilise the space as a drought garden, with associated signage of plant species, as a continuation of that due to be delivered at Wells Recreation Ground.

All members agreed to approach the Town Clerk for discretionary funding.

26/45/OS FORWARD PLAN

Topic	Month
Christmas Light Update	April 2026
Leisure & Play Strategy	June 2026

26/46/OS ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

There were no matters of urgent report.

26/47/OS DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 30th April 2026, 6pm, Wells Town Hall

Minutes signed by The Chair: Date: