



WELLS CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL SUMMONS

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL,
WHICH MEMBERS ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND, WILL BE HELD IN
WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM**

Please note this meeting will be recorded for the purpose of minute-taking.

Steve Luck
Town Clerk

Town Hall, Market Place
Wells,
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21st Sept 2023

AGENDA

Wells City Council has declared a climate emergency. Each agenda item must consider the impact on any policy and decision.

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.
- 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27TH JULY 2023**
To be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.
- 4 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Mayor.
- 5 POLICE REPORT**

6 PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR ABI MCGUIRE, PROSPECTIVE INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE, WELLS & MENDIP HILLS CONSTITUENCY

7 PRESENTATION BY CRYSTAL JOHNSON, PROJECT MANAGER VICARS CLOSE

8 PRESENTATION BY FOCUS, CHARITY FOR AFFORDABLE COUNSELLING

9 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Civic Event

Remembrance Service & Parade, Sunday 12th November 2023, 9:45am
All councillors are invited to attend, more details to follow.

Mayor's Diary

- i. 29th Sept- Film Premier 'Avalon of the Heart', Glastonbury
- ii. 6th Oct -- Chair of Somerset Award for Service to the Community, Taunton
- iii. 6th Oct -- Wells in Bloom Presentation Evening, Town Hall Deputy Mayor to attend
- iv. 8th Oct – Somerset Young Farmers Harvest Service & Supper, Wells Cathedral
- v. 10th Oct -- Local Council Award Scheme, Zoom mtg
- vi. 14th Oct – Soup!, Connect Centre
- vii. 14th Oct -- Refugee Art Exhibition,
- viii. 19th Oct – Symphony Orchestra Concert, Cedars Hall
- ix. 28th Oct – Mayor's Charity Quiz, Town Hall

10 OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2023 (attached)

11 FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2023 (attached)

12 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17th August (attached) and 21st September 2023 (to follow)

13 UNITARY COUNCIL

- i. Cllr Welch to present his report (attached) from Wells and Rural LCN meeting on 14th September 2023 in Binegar Memorial Hall.
- ii. To discuss WCC future working relationship with Somerset Council.

14 REPORT FOLLOWING LAST COUNCILLORS SURGERY ON 18TH SEPTEMBER

Councillors in attendance: Cllrs Orrett and Welch

15 CIVIC AWARDS

To receive an update from Cllr Welch

16 REGULAR COVERAGE OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL IN THE LOCAL PRESS

Cllr Orrett to present report (attached).

17 PORTWAY ANNEXE

Minutes of the PA meeting (attached) presented by Cllr D Orrett.

18 BAD DURKHEIM 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

To receive an update from the Mayor.

19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

20 TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

To follow, if any received.

21 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be **Thursday 26th October 2023, 7pm**

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it will be proposed by the Mayor that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended.

Circulation List:

	Somerset Councillors	Wells Journal & Wells Voice
Town Clerk/RFO	Serjeants-at-Mace	Wells Chamber of Commerce
Town Clerk Assistant	Mayor's Chaplain	The Bishop's Palace
Cemetery & Burial Officer	Town Crier	Wells Cathedral
Outside Spaces Officer	Wells Civic Society	Avon & Somerset Police
Wells City Council members	WCC Internal Auditor	

Agenda Item 13 (i)

Report from Wells and Rural LCN meeting at 7pm on 14th September 2023 in Binegar Memorial Hall

Councillor Tony Hathaway, Vice Chair of the LCN, said that at the previous meeting of the LCN there had been concerns that the LCN would become just a talking shop, and people were too negative when they should be looking at what we can do and can achieve.

Each LCN is expected to agree four or five projects to improve their area and the first one to be agreed by Wells and Rural is to develop a better network of paths for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to use.

It became clear that LCNs will have to get funds from grant-giving bodies and rely on volunteers to get such projects done.

Somerset Council had allocated a budget of £600,000 to be shared between the 18 LCNs but later halved it to £300,000. As the population of Somerset is approximately 580,000 that means there will be an average of about 52 pence for each man, woman and child per annum. And this was before the council announced that it needs to find further savings to balance the books.

Concerns were raised about road accidents and speeding, particularly on the B3134 over the Mendip Hills, known by some locals as the "Mendip Motorway". Residents also wanted slow routes to walk and ride through the countryside.

There was disappointment that the police were not represented as many parishes had concerns about policing. Kate Helland, Somerset Council's LCN Development Lead, explained that the police said they did not receive enough notice of the meeting.

I told the meeting that people in Wells were very unhappy about the broken and unrepaired pavements in Wells which was causing many falls, particularly among elderly people. Councillors from other parishes agreed that it was a serious problem. County Councillor Tessa Munt said the answer was installing bollards to stop drivers parking on the pavements. County Councillor Edric Hobbs, Chair of the LCN, added that parking on pavements was only illegal in London.

Somerset Council had allocated 90 minutes for the meeting but it overran and there was insufficient time to discuss all the agenda items. So Councillor Hobbs proposed that future meetings should last two hours. This was agreed and the dates for the next two meetings are 16th November and 1st February. Venues to be decided.

Councillor Philip Welch

18th September 2023

Agenda Item 16

Notes from meeting re: press coverage for Wells City Council.

Held on September 6th 2023 at the Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Tanys Pullin and Councillors Philip Welch, Denise Denis and Deborah Orrett.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss whether the current coverage of WCC in the Wells Voice and Wells Journal is adequate or whether slightly more structured and regular input would promote what we do without impacting too heavily on Councillor and Officer time.

Philip told us that the circulation of the monthly Wells Voice is 6,500 whilst for the Wells Journal it is 400.

The Mid Somerset Series employs only a few part time journalists. Daniel Mumby writes well.

The Wells Journal costs £2.15. The Wells Voice, edited by Andy Vallis, is free and is distributed to each household in Wells.

The deadline for copy for the Wells Voice is the middle of the month, so 13th September for the October issue.

WCC is charged for any adverts (eg use of Town Hall facilities) for a maximum of 300 words per month but there is no charge for any news coverage.

The Mayor doesn't have a Mayor's diary as has been the case in the past but receives generous coverage of her activities.

We thought having a half or full page entitled "From the Town Hall "may hit the right note and run features such as Wells In Bloom (December issue), Environmental activities(November, after the market stall to be held on 23rd September).

Andy is running good coverage of Isa's domestic violence.

Andy is able to attend some Full Council meetings. He receives the agenda and will attend accordingly.

Denise proposed a FAQ approach may work for our "From the Town Hall " section so the public can learn a little more about the work of the Councillors and Officers and be encouraged to be more involved.

Suitable questions may be:

Who and what make up Wells City Council?

Where is our Council tax spent?

How can I contact a Councillor?

What does WCC own?

Please clarify what WCC is NOT responsible for.

It was decided that Councillors and Officers would be asked on an infrequent basis to cover their area of interest /activity.

Work loads should therefore not be increased substantially.

Deborah agreed to ask for an item to be placed on the next Full Council agenda on 28th September outlining this shift in press coverage.

Cllr D Orrett 7/9/2023

Agenda Item 17

Meeting of the Portway Annexe Management Committee

31st August 6pm Cursley Room, Portway Annexe.

Present

Cllr Deborah Orrett - Chair	DO
Cllr Shirley Eden	SE
Steve Luck	SL
Alex Westwood	AW
Cllr Denise Denis	DD
Cllr Stewart Cursley	SC
Colin Brown	CB
Gerry Clark	GC

Apologies

None received.

Minutes from last meeting on 26th June 2023

The 'Tree of Life' mosaic was discussed and it was decided not to display it at the PA. GC said that out of 24 houses he had approached about it, only 2 were in favour.

DO – there are other locations being considered so it was decided it was no longer an issue for this committee.

Community Fridge – GW commented that there was a good mixture of for and against for residents.

Action – SC to contact the Community Fridge team to discuss funding and possible locations.

Alec Westwood Report

See attached

Further requests from AW not mentioned in the report;

- Would like to turn the AV room into another music rehearsal room
- Change the Cursley room into a bespoke yoga/pilates studio and add a full-length mirror.
- When the number of Ukraine refugees using the NC room decreases, would like to convert to a conference room.

The above issues were discussed briefly and agreed in principle pending costs etc.

DO raised the youth club that is going to the Connect Centre and asked if it was feasible to hold it at the PA. SL said the cost of staffing would make it unrealistic. The connect centre is free and has volunteers in place.

Financial Report – SL

The PA has been selected as the central refugee hub for all refugees. Charis will administer the grant of 124K. There is a 19-month term of funding.

SL anticipates a budget uplift in the next Full Council proposal. It would be good to be able to improve the building rather than carry out essential maintenance. Current staff are looking at opportunities to raise more funds.

3 parking spaces are still remaining but are under trees. The new Sheep and Penguin pub are interested in the spaces for customers. AW to follow up.

AoB

GC – mentioned a disabled driver parking continuously on the junction. AW will contact and resolve.

DO – mentioned the Facebook campaign and how good it is.

Date of next meeting.

Set for Thursday 30th November 2023 at 6 pm at the PA.