

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 2022 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk/RFO, S Luck
Outside Spaces Officer, M Johnson
WCC Cllrs: S Cursley (Mayor)
Mayoress J Cursley
SCC Cllr T Munt
WCC Staff: C Hobbs
3 Members of the public

Non-attendance: Cllr E Knott

22/51/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None received

22/52/OSE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012.

Cllr S Eden declared a personal interest in item 22/55OSE as to the proposed siting of the Skateboard park.

22/53/OSE MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022

The minutes were presented and agreed and signed as a true record.

22/43/OSE Cllr S Powell asked for confirmation of costings. The Outside Spaces Officer reported that for a vehicle and staff, costs would be £30,400 and that there is no capacity to include extra watering locations.

Cllr S Powell requested that a review be made of the hanging basket scheme. It was agreed that Cllrs: S Powell, D Denis, L Agabani conduct this review.

22/47/OSE Cllr S Powell asked for information re the TPO status of the trees in the Recreation ground. The Outside Spaces Officer explained that TPOs are in place and should work proceed, applications will need to be made to Planning Officers as a large amount of the canopy requires reduction.

Cllr T Butt Philip suggested that discussions take place with nearby residents to establish what their wishes are.

22/54/OSE MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

A representative of the Bishop's Palace Allotment Committee spoke about heritage trees which require pruning work. This has been done previously but was not to a high standard. It was suggested that a meeting take place with The Outside Spaces.

The Town Clerk suggested the Tree Surveyor currently carrying out work at the Cemetery, be asked to look at the heritage trees to establish what is needed and then if the Bishop's Palace, Church Commissioners approve, then the work be carried out.

22/55/OSE OUTSIDE SPACES

i Skateboard park

Cllr L Agabani reported that three locations have been surveyed and the recommended location is next to the Leisure centre. Discussions are now taking place with MDC regarding the land.

The Town Clerk explained that as Unitary discussions are taking place regarding all assets and the land being an asset of value, there is unlikely to be any progress until after April 2023

Cllr L Agabani reported that £1000 has been donated towards the Skateboard park charity by a local developer.

Cllr D Denise informed the meeting that a fundraising event will take place on 8th October at Cedars Hall to raise funds for the Skateboard park.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that all three locations remain under consideration and that there will be a public consultation in the future.

ii New Premises

The Outside Spaces Officer reported that the Open Spaces offices are now located at the new premises at the Underwood Business Park. There was an issue of the management of green waste but this has now been resolved. Councillors are invited to visit for a tour of the premises.

The Outside Spaces Officer reported that he has been building a database of all areas and assets that Wells City Council Outside Spaces Team are responsible for, in order to simplify the process for reporting, actions and improving working processes.

iii Anti-littering measures (signage/litter cam)

Cllr D Orrett reported that the Litter picking team of volunteers continue to work hard to clear areas in and around the city of litter. There has been research on methods of reducing litter being discharged. Signs which reinforce positive behaviour are more effective than signs that reprimand.

A discussion took place about methods that have been used historically and whether litter cams, liaising with local schools or involving PCSOs who might help reduce littering if they were to issue FPNs (Fixed penalty notice)

Cllr L Agabani suggested if Cllr D Orrett wishes to increase signage and make a proposal for funding for signs, that she liaises with Cllr S Curley (Mayor) and perhaps the Head Teacher at the Blue School.

22/56/OSE PORTWAY ANNEXE

Cllr D Orrett reported that the first meeting of the Portway Annexe Management group had taken place. The Portway Annexe is thriving and bookings are increasing and that it has become a popular space for several community groups. Maintenance work has been completed. (Full report attached)

The Town Clerk reported that the agreement was signed between WCN and Charis for the Ukrainian Hub which is now active at the Portway Annexe. A member of staff will be employed as a part time coordinator, who will be funded by Somerset County Council. It was also mentioned that the CAB Pod is being installed and will open soon.

22/57/OSE BISHOP'S BARN

Cllr S Powell reported that after signing the lease for the Bishop's Barn and Recreation ground. It was reported that some of the budget of £30000 was expected to be used to remove old paint from inside the barn, polish floors, improve drainage and mend doors as well as tidy up the Notice boards in the recreation ground. After a meeting on the 29th Sept, a decision was made to set up a Management group of four Councillors and two members of the public. The Wells Voice will be asked to include an article giving further details.

The Outside Spaces Officer reported that he had been getting quotes for the work mentioned by Cllr S Powell. A meeting with play equipment company is planned to get ideas about accessible play furniture to give a nice balance of equipment on offer to all users and to discuss initial works and upgrades to play equipment.

22/58/OSE PROPERTIES

The Town Clerk reported that the electrical work is complete. There is an issue with heat loss from windows in the Offices which need upgrading as they are the old galvanised window style.

The Coronation of King Charles will be in May/June 2023. Wells City Council would like to erect flags and bunting in the High Street and Market Place. Due to the logistics of gaining permissions and fixings, it is suggested that the work would be best undertaken "In house" by Outdoor spaces staff.

22/59/OSE ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr D Denis reported that some members of the public had requested that Wells have a small Community Garden. Cllr D Denis suggested a small area at the end of Portway Avenue for this purpose, perhaps as a trial. After a brief discussion about the complications of permissions from Somerset County Council, it was suggested that established areas such as at the Bus Station be used instead in the short term but then look for other suitable areas for the future. Cllr D Denis will write to Somerset County Council requesting permission to place a site at the end of Portway Avenue. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the Monday after Wells Carnival, the Outdoor spaces team will be putting up Christmas decorations.

22/60/OSE DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 3rd November

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: It is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it was proposed by the Chair that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended to allow a private property report.

Minutes signed by The Chair:

Date: