

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: J Browne (Chair), T Butt Philip, D Denis, S Eden, D Orrett, G Robbins

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
Outside Spaces Officer: M Johnson
WCC Cllrs: L Agabani, S Cursley, I Von Mensenkampff, P Welch
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
Somerset Councillor: T Munt
10 Members of the public

Non-attendance: None

23/80/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllrs: N Kennedy, S Powell

23/81/OSE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

23/82/OSE MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH JULY 2023

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

23/83/OSE MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Denis requested an update on the following from the last meeting:

- i. 23/71/OSE – no meeting had yet taken place with the Fair Operator.
- ii. 23/72/OSE – No pesticides policy had yet been publicised.
- iii. 23/78/OSE – The Open Spaces Officer confirmed an additional Dog Poo bin was purchased and would be installed in next couple of weeks.

23/84/OSE MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

Lavinia Byrne, Carol Parkes, Barbara Sprite and Jean Wright all spoke to express their concern over the trees in the Recreation Ground. The trees have not been maintained regularly and are greatly reducing daylight into homes in Carlton Mews. Some trees are touching the roofs of the properties and dead wood has been dropping. Comment was also made on the new Refreshment Van. They would have liked it to have gone out to tender and also for the van to be in the park with more continuity.

Christopher Hornidge later spoke to express his frustration over the anti-social behaviour in the area around the public toilets, where benches are currently in place. It would be his wish to move these benches to another area.

23/85/OSE RECREATION GROUND

1. To consider a request to re-site benches close to the public toilets.
After a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr Orrett to move the benches and this was seconded by Cllr Denis. There were two votes for this proposal and four voted against.

It was unanimously agreed by the Committee for the Town Clerk and Outside Spaces Officer to install a CCTV camera and signage in the area around the public toilets and existing benches, to monitor anti-social behaviour.

2. To consider request for additional benches around the refreshment kiosk. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Butt Philip to purchase four additional accessible picnic benches. Two positioned facing the barn, two would replace existing benches in the park area. This was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

The need for additional bins in the area was also discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Butt Philip to purchase another children's fun bin (frog shape) and two further bins. This was agreed by all the Committee present.

3. To receive an update on the temporary refreshment kiosk and consider options for next year.
Most feedback on the trial Refreshment Van has been positive. Concerns were raised over the number of days the van had been in situ and the type of food on offer. It was proposed by Cllr Browne and seconded by Cllr Orrett to go out to tender. Five councillors voted for this, one councillor abstained from voting.
4. To start to consider long term plan for the recreation ground and new playground equipment.
It was agreed for Cllr Browne to prepare a short-term draft vision for improving the Recreation Ground and present back to the committee in two months. A long-term plan (5 years) would then be considered.
5. To consider improvements to the tarmac pathways.
It was proposed by Cllr Browne and seconded by Cllr Orrett for the Outside Spaces Officer to obtain a survey on the existing tarmac areas in the Recreation Ground. Agreement would then be sought on areas needing repair i.e. will they be replaced with new tarmac, replaced by grass etc. This proposal was agreed by all the Committee.
6. To receive update on tree survey.
The Outside Spaces Officer advised the tree survey report had been received by Wells City Council that afternoon and a full study of the findings and recommendations had yet to be carried out. It was agreed by all to delegate authority to the Town Clerk and Outside Spaces Officer, to draw up an action plan in consultation with Bo Walsh (Somerset Council Tree and Woodland Officer), safety being the priority.

23/87/OSE BISHOP'S BARN

1. To receive any update on the Bishop's Barn from English Heritage.
Wells City Council have not received any official response from English Heritage.
2. To consider options for the future of the barn. Once more is known from English Heritage, options will be considered.

23/88/OSE WELLS RECREATION GROUND TRUST

The Town Clerk advised the Wells Recreation Ground Trust was no longer a charity. This was as a result of having no assets of significant interest. This means no separate accounts need to be provided.

23/89/OSE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr Denis presented her report. There were no questions from the Committee.

The Climate Emergency Working Party will have a stall at the Wells Market on Wednesday 20th September from 8:30am – 2:30pm. They have 1,000 leaflets with the re-designed survey, any help from Councillors in distributing these would be gratefully received.

23/90/OSE ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Following a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting with Somerset Council Officers to discuss the Wells November Carnival, a meeting is to be held with the Town Clerk, Cllr Browne and the Carnival Marshall to discuss the running of the carnival alongside the Charter Fair.

The Town Clerk advised an application had been submitted to Somerset Council to extend the road closure in the Market Place. This was for a further 18 months at a cost of £500.

23/91/OSE DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 5th October 2023

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: