

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: J Browne (Chair), T Butt Philip, D Denis, S Eden, D Orrett, S Powell (Vice-chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
Somerset Councillor: T Munt
8 members of the public attended

Non-attendance: None

23/103/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllrs: N Kennedy, G Robbins

23/104/OSE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

23/105/OSE MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023 (Recreation Ground & Bishop's Barn)

The minutes were already signed. There were no matters arising.

23/106/OSE MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sylvia Hanks asked for a sensory garden to be considered for the Recreation Ground area. Sylvia has a lot of ideas on how this can enhance the area and be an asset to the City. It was agreed for two councillors to meet up with Sylvia to discuss and ensure it is included on the next Recreation Ground agenda in January 2024.

June Hodgson raised the issue of dead branches in a tree close to her home. This was addressed later in the meeting 23/107/OSE iii.

23/107/OSE RECREATION GROUND

The Town Clerk gave an update on the following:

- i. New benches and bins
These have been purchased and will be installed in the next few weeks. Cllr Denis re-visited the discussion on where to place the benches around the Bishop's Barn/toilet area. As this was previously voted on, resulting in it being agreed to leave them in the same position, no further discussion can take place until six months has lapsed.
- ii. CCTV
This has been installed and is being monitored, recorded and stored. No anti-social behaviour was visible to date.
- iii. Tree survey report
The Committee was asked whether the report could be uploaded to the website for the public to view. The Town Clerk agreed to look into.

The report had highlighted 4 trees, near to the toilets, which need to be felled. There were also 12 trees with dead wood that need to be cleared. The report

suggests this work should be carried out within 18 months but at the request of our insurance company this work needs to be carried out immediately. The Town Clerk also explained that any trees overhanging the boundary of the Recreation Ground, into resident's gardens, should also be cut back.

It was proposed by Cllr Browne to allow Wells City Council to proceed with the tree felling, removal of dead wood and cosmetic work to cut back overhanging branches. This was seconded by Cllr Eden and unanimously agreed by all those present on the Committee.

iv. Tender documents for refreshment kiosk

The Assistant Town Clerk, Claire Woodland, was thanked for producing the detailed documentation.

It was proposed by Cllr Denis, seconded by Cllr Orrett and agreed by all those present on the Committee to adopt and proceed with these tender documents.

23/108/OSE BISHOP'S BARN

The Town Clerk gave an update on the following:

i. Update on lettings

The Town Clerk advised the first wedding had taken place in the Barn and it had been very successful. Interest to book the barn from various groups had also been received.

ii. Consider minor improvements to the building

In order to make the barn a safer and more pleasant venue, the Town Clerk suggested that there were some immediate improvements that could be carried out by Spring 2024:

- clean flaky paint
- sand floor
- improve lighting

It was proposed, seconded and agreed for Wells City Council to proceed with these improvements.

23/109/OSE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM PLANS FOR THE RECREATON GROUND

i. Cllr Browne to present short-term plan

Cllr Browne was thanked by the Committee for her clear and thorough short-term plan.

ii. To discuss and agree way forward

It was recommended for the Town Clerk and Outside Spaces Officer to obtain costings for the next meeting in January 2024. The Town Clerk also agreed to consider immediate improvements by asking the Outside Spaces Team to clean up and repaint signs/railings/assess the repair of the existing water fountain.

This was proposed by Cllr Browne, seconded by Cllr Orrett to adopt the short-term work development plan. This was agreed by all those present on the Committee.

23/110/OSE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr Denis advised they had attended training sessions on resilience and carbon literacy. A meeting was scheduled for Friday 3rd November with Somerset Councillor Munt to discuss how this can be positively actioned in Wells. They will be focusing on extreme weather events/climate/climate emergency and what can be actioned to help local residents.

Cllr Denis presented the Climate Change Survey report. Those present at the meeting were encouraged to go online and complete the survey to help inform the way forward. A meeting will be arranged to look at the results and discuss the way forward. The Committee had no further questions.

23/111/OSE ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr Browne thanked Cllr Orrett and her volunteers for the latest successful litter pick. The Outside Spaces Team were also thanked for all their ongoing hard work in keeping the City clean and tidy.

23/112/OSE DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6pm Thursday 7th December 2023 (Outside Spaces, Wells In Bloom, Portway Annexe)

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: