

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 28th JUNE 2012 AT 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon (The Mayor); T Butt Philip (Deputy Mayor);
C Price; C Briton; A Denison; A Gibson; S Davies; J Osman; H Siggs;
D Anderson; T Robbins; G Wilson; N Kennedy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White.
Mace-Bearer: G Weatherhead; Chaplain: A Wheeler.
PC Scott-Page. 1 member of the press, 5 members of the public.

12/91C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs: J Mitchell; J North; D Unwin.

12/92C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS None.

12/93C MINUTES of meetings of the City Council held on 18th May (Mayor Making) and 24th May 2012 were proposed, seconded accepted and signed.

12/94C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None wishing to speak.

12/95C REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PC Page asked the Council what form they would wish the report to take in future, now that parking tickets are no longer issued by the Police. Members suggested feedback from PACT meetings; incidents and locations of anti-social behaviour. The main item at the recent PACT meeting was growth of weeds and vegetation all over the city, particularly around the benches on Palace fields. The main hot-spots for anti-social behaviour are Cathedral Green and the Recreation Ground. In answer to questions PC Page reported there had been no problems caused by the relocation of the EMI club. Weather conditions were not thought to be a main contributory factor in the level of anti-social behaviour.

12/96C PRESENTATION

Information was provided to Council by local businessman Loaye Agabani on a the launch of the community website initiative: MYHIGH.ST
The presentation was received with interest. (See also **12/107C**)

12/97C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Report from a meeting of the Somerset Association of Local Councils: changes to the **Code of Conduct** under the Localism Act.

The Mayor reported the current Code will expire on 1st June; information is being forwarded to Councillors as it is received from SALC and other sources. Cllr Osman reported the Monitoring Officers of the County and District Councils in Somerset are preparing a new model Code, in consultation with the County Secretary of SALC; this will be made ready for presentation to the town and parish councils. The Town Clerk reported she will be attending a meeting of Clerks on Friday 6th July when it is expected the County Secretary will present the new model Code; town and parish councils can then make local adjustments. It is recommended that the City Council be ready to adopt a new Code at its meeting in July; it was agreed this shall be an item for the City Council agenda on 26th July.

- ii. HMS Somerset Freedom visit

The Mayor reported this had been a very successful event despite the wet weather and the ship's company had enjoyed themselves; she thanked everyone who had helped with the preparations and refreshments.

- iii. Freedom Award Ceremony Sunday 15th July

The Mayor reported the arrangements are well in hand (details have been e-

mailed to all Councillors) it is hoped everyone will be able to attend on this very special occasion.

12/98C COUNCIL SEAL

To resolve that the official Seal shall be set on the Addresses for the forthcoming Freedom of the City awards: Resolved.

12/99C TOWN HALL PROJECTS

i. Report from Crown Court Working Group (The Mayor)

The Mayor summarised the conclusions of the Working Group:

a. The Crown Court

- room to be cleared of all benches
- floor levelled where tiering had been, and new floor laid
- probably some panelling removed or renovated
- additional door from Vestibule
- the windows in the Court Room to remain a feature

b. Balcony (new Bar for Ballroom)

- remove tiered seating and make good the floor
- build up wall at open end to enclose new Bar, incorporate high level windows for light
- set up new servicing bar

c. All of the above will need heating, electrical and decorating work, plus floor covering.

Rough estimates obtained have been encouraging, and well below what was anticipated; a contingency sum would be set aside.

A mezzanine floor was considered initially but the cost was high; such a project would leave us with a windowless, dark, unattractive room, not popular for lettings. The next step is to have plans drawn to MDC requirements and obtain comparative quotes for the work.

ii. Town Hall projects (DDA compliance; Carbon Footprint)

At the request of the Mayor, the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee reported on two separate projects:

- a. It had become apparent that the lack of accessibility to the middle floor of the Town Hall is not acceptable. Modern lift systems are available which can address this situation. The next step is to consult Cllr Siggs, drawing on his knowledge of DDA compliance and check with Officers at MDC regarding Conservation and Planning regulations. A package will then be brought to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval.
- b. Roof Insulation: Councillors were reminded that the Town Hall boiler was replaced approximately three years ago and with other additions is now an efficient system. The recent energy audit of the Town Hall identified lack of roof insulation as a major point of heat loss; quotes are being sought and a plan will be brought to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval.

There was a short discussion and some questions for clarification of the projects. Cllr Kennedy congratulated Cllrs Siggs and Robbins and the Court Room Working Group on all the work that had been done. Cllr Gibson was particularly thanked for her recent presentation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

12/100C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on held on 7th June 2012 were proposed, seconded and accepted.

The Chairman drew Councillors attention to a session to be held at 6pm on Thursday 19th July: Neighbourhood Planning under the Localism Act.

- 12/101C MINUTES OF THE CEMETERY AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**
Minutes of the meeting held on held on 13th June 2012 were proposed, seconded and accepted.
- 12/102C MINUTES OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE**
Minutes of the meeting held on held on 14th June 2012 were proposed, seconded and accepted.
- 12/103C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**
Minutes of the meeting held on held on 14th June 2012 were proposed, seconded and accepted.
- 12/104C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE**
Minutes of the meeting held on held on 20th June 2012 were proposed, seconded and accepted. (Corrected to include Cllr Davies apologies)
- 12/105C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
SCC i. Cllr Osman reported on the new duties relating to public Health and Well-Being; the county council is considering allocating funding to Ward Councillors to promote healthier lifestyle within their Ward.
ii. Cllr Osman reported on the Community Resilience Fund
iii. Transition Wells
Cllr Briton reported Wells Freecycle Day will take place at Priory Road Car Park on Sunday 22nd July.
iv. SCC Parking Enforcement
Cllr Siggs reported 1335 penalty notices have been served county-wide since the scheme started; in Mendip 24 were off street and 73 on-street. Enforcement is of yellow lines and limited parking times. (Cllr Kennedy left the room)
The same company is contracted to carry out MDC parking enforcement.
v. Silver Street pavement obstructions
Cllr Siggs reported residents have been asked to remove items since someone stepped off the pavement to go round a large planter and was hit by a vehicle. Cllr Osman is contacting all the residents. (Cllr Kennedy returned)
- 12/106C CAR PARKS:** Item from Cllr Price.
Cllr Price reported concerns passed to him by permit holders; the main issues relate to details of the future arrangements for short/long stay parking and for permit holders. The Town Clerk had obtained information which had arrived just prior to the meeting and may provide sufficient answers. After discussion it was agreed Councillors needed time to read the information; the Mayor asked members to let her know if they had any further questions, she would then ask the Town Clerk to take these up. District Councillors also asked to be contacted with queries.
- 12/107C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**
i. Cllr Davies was nominated as the contact for MYHIGH.ST
ii. Stewards are needed for Wells in Bloom Open Gardens 20-21 July.
iii. Grit Bin at Charter Way is damaged.
iv. Parents have reported Play Areas at Hamilton Court and at Recreation Ground are in poor condition.
- 12/108C DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
To note that the next meeting will be at **7pm on Thursday 26th July 2012**

