

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER WELLS TOWN HALL, THURSDAY 24th OCTOBER 2013 AT 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Butt Philip (The Mayor); C Briton (Deputy Mayor); M Brandon; A Denison; A Gibson; N Kennedy; J North; J Osman; J Parkes; T Robbins; D Unwin; G Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White. RFO: S Luck.
Mace-Bearer: M Goody. Chaplain: Ven. N Sullivan.
1 member of the press. 4 members of the public.
2 Representatives of Mendip District Council. It was agreed to vary the order of the agenda, bringing item 12 forward (13/134C).

13/130C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: D Anderson; C Price; H Siggs.
Avon and Somerset Police.

13/131C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

13/132C MINUTES of the meeting of the City Council held on 26th September 2013 were proposed, seconded, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

13/133C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- i. Mrs Siddons spoke with reference to her previous requests regarding minutes of meetings of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust.
- ii. Mr Hudsmith presented information and records relating to maintenance of the Moat Walk.

13/134C MDC 'WELLS CLUBS CO-LOCATIONS' PROJECT

Mendip District Council's Assets Manager presented the proposals, supported by the Portfolio Holder for Policy & Performance & the Built Environment; maps and briefing papers were provided. They then answered questions and listened to comments during a lengthy discussion.

The Mayor thanked them for coming and summarised the main points of the discussion as:

- potential beneficial improvements to facilities
- concern about the exchange of freehold land for leasehold
- loss of an open space within the city boundary.

13/135C PRESENTATION SCC County Plan consultation

County Council Leader, Cllr Osman, presented the consultation schedule; "Listening Learning, Changing" can be accessed on the SCC website. Papers were circulated. Cllr Osman answered questions in some detail; he invited members to e-mail him with any further comments or queries, the consultation continues until November.

13/136C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor thanked all staff for their patience and continuing hard work during the disruption due to the building work over the past few months.
- ii. The Town Hall was awarded 'Best Public Building' in the 2013 Wells in Bloom Competition.
- iii. Wells Twinning Association will be holding an Open Day in the Mayor's Parlour, 10am – 2pm Saturday 26th October.

- iv. Civic Carol Service Sunday 15th December at St Thomas' Church.
- v. The Mayor welcomed the new press reporter for the Wells Journal, Ruth Ovens.
- vi. On behalf of the Council the Mayor congratulated the City Archivist on her recent additional appointment as Archivist to the Cathedral.

- 13/137C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd October 2013 and 17th October.
The Vice-Chairman presented the minutes and answered questions.
- 13/138C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2013.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
- 13/139C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2013.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions. He drew members' attention to 13/45S with reference to budget proposals.
Members are asked to note the next meeting of the Staffing Committee will be held on 21st November.
- 13/140C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2013.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
Annual Audit Report
Members' attention was drawn to the annual audit report (13/94F); copies of which were before them. The RFO and Town Clerk were congratulated on doing such a good job over the last few years.
- 13/141C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
Night on the Town
Cllr Robbins reported that the group has decided not to hold the event again.
- 13/142C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**
A message was received from the Police Inspector informing members regarding two recent local incidents.
- 13/143C DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
To note that the next meeting will be at **7pm on Thursday 28th November 2013.**