

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon; C Cox; A Gibson; R Greenwell; N Kennedy; R MacKenzie;
J North (Mayor); J Osman; C Price; T Robbins; D Swain; D Unwin; G Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
Chaplain: A Glanville
Mace Bearer J Rood
Somerset County Cllr. T Munt
2 representatives from Somerset and Avon Police
3 members of the public

17/154C CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced the standard emergency evacuation procedures. He requested that mobile phones and other devices be set on silent or turned off. Anyone intending to record any part of the meeting was asked to declare this.

17/155C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: R Ayres, H Siggs; C Wride (Deputy Mayor)

17/156C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012:

Cllr Gibson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in 17/164C budget and precept, as partner of the Finance Officer; she left the room during this item.

**17/157C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
23RD NOVEMBER 2017:**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

17/158C POLICE REPORT

To receive a report from Avon and Somerset Police:

PC Pearson reported on arrests made and explained the new crime recording system. He is working with premises owners to tackle graffiti.

He answered questions from members and noted reports. There were questions regarding road conditions on the Wookey Hole Road and Glastonbury Road that could lead to a serious RTA. Police to speak to developers.

The priority from the recent PACT meeting is parking on Ash Lane; this is being monitored.

17/159C PRESENTATION

The organisers spoke about Wells Theatre Festival due to take place 12th – 15th July 2018. They were thanked for all their work on this project and asked to give an up-date in spring 2018.

17/160C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

17/161C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. The Mayor thanked the staff, Mendip District Council, and all who had helped to make the City look so festive; he had received many positive comments from the public.
- ii. Wells Christmas Market Wed.-Sat. 20th-23rd December 2017
- iii. Bishop Bekynton Commemoration 2.45pm Sunday 14th January 2018
- iv. Mayor's Charity events

As Father of the Council, Cllr Kennedy thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for all their work; he wished them and all the staff a very happy Christmas and New Year.

17/162C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2017, with minutes of the Wells in Bloom 9th Nov and City & Tourism Forum 2nd Nov sub-committee meetings: The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions. She thanked the Open Spaces team for all their hard work in putting up the Christmas lighting display, particularly as the weather had been very cold and wet at the time.

17/163C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2017:
The Vice-Chairman presented the minutes and answered questions.

17/164C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2017:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

RECOMMENDED:

BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR THE YEAR 2018-19

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the budget be recommended to full Council for adoption, subject to the agreed adjustments.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to recommend to full Council that the precept figure be set in accordance with the approved amendments.

Cllr. Price asked about the 67 bus; Cllr. Robbins clarified that the matter will be put on the agenda again when there is relevant information available.

Cllr. Unwin objected to the budget and voted against the proposals. Cllr. Kennedy objected and abstained from the vote.

Cllr Robbins proposed that the recommendations be approved, seconded by Cllr Osman, **RESOLVED** by majority vote.

17/165C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Robbins reported the fund-raising for the Mosaic project is going well.

ii. CCTV

Cllr Robbins reported a talk at the recent meeting by the Beat Manager had demonstrated how much the Police value the CCTV.

iii. Connect Centre

Cllr MacKenzie reported on the work for the homeless.

iv. Mendip District Council

Cllr Osman reported on recent work by Scrutiny and Cabinet in preparing the budget.

v. Somerset Rivers Authority

Cllr Osman spoke about river dredging.

Cllr MacKenzie spoke for the SRA Scrutiny Panel.

vi. Somerset County Council

Cllr Munt gave her monthly report (copy available), spoke about the activities of the County Council and answered questions.

17/166C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Robbins reported the recent passing of Mr C Follett, long-time employee of Wells Joint Burial Board.

17/167C The Mayor invited everyone present to share mulled wine and mince pies in the Mayor's Parlour after the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held at **7.00pm on Thursday 25th January 2018**