

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 26TH APRIL 2018 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs : R Ayres, M Brandon; C Cox; A Gibson; R Greenwell; N Kennedy;
R MacKenzie; J North (Mayor); J Osman; T Robbins; H Siggs;
D Swain; D Unwin; C Wride (Deputy Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
Mace Bearer: J Rood;
Mayor's Chaplain: A Glanville;
RFO: S Luck
Somerset County Cllr. T Munt
13 members of the public

18/45C CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

18/46C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: C Price; G Wilson

It was agreed to vary the order on the agenda due to the attendance by interested members of the public, taking the item on Town Twinning earlier.

18/47C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Cllrs North and Unwin each declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in **18/51C** as members of the Town Twinning Association.

18/48C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON

22ND MARCH 2018: Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

18/49C POLICE REPORT

To receive a report from Avon and Somerset Police:

PSCO Donna President gave a report on the monthly crime figures and actions being taken. She answered questions, particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour in Waitrose car park; funding is being sought to provide an awareness training day at the Blue School. She confirmed that the Wells Police Station will be closing; she affirmed the local Beat Team will continue to be in Wells. She agreed to take back an invitation from the Mayor to the Chief Constable to attend the next Council meeting and explain what he is planning.

18/50C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

It was agreed the Chairman of the Town Twinning Association would speak after the Mayor.

18/51C TOWN TWINNING

To receive a report and recommendations on Town Twinning presented by Cllr North (The Mayor):

The Mayor introduced the report (attached); item 5.2.v. had been agreed at the Budget meeting in 2017.

The Chairman of the Town Twinning Association spoke in support of the report; he gave information about recent developments and thanked Councillors and the Town Clerk for their time and attendance at functions.

Councillors debated the report and it was agreed to form a working group to discuss it further.

Proposed by the Mayor:

To note the recommendations in the report. A 'task and finish' group to be set up to scrutinise the paper and recommend any changes.

Seconded, and carried by majority vote.

- The group to report back to full Council in September.
- Cllr. Unwin to coordinate with the Town Clerk in setting up the group.
- Cllrs. Ayres, North, Robbins, Siggs, Swain, Unwin volunteered to take part.
- Names of 4-5 Twinning Association members to be provide by the Chairman.

18/52C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Civic opening of the May Fair: 11am Saturday 5th May, robing at the Town Hall from 10.30am
- ii. Mayor Making: 3pm Saturday 19th May
- iii. The Mayor's Charities: nearly £7,000 has been raised to date; the Grey Dogs will be playing in the Market Place on Saturday.

The Mayor thanked everyone for all their support during the last year.

Cllr Kennedy thanked the Mayor for his well-chaired meetings, congratulating him on doing such a good job in the Chair.

18/53C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2018:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

18/54C AUDIT FOR THE YEAR 2017-18

- i. **To receive and note the report from the Council's Internal Auditor**

Noted, no matters for action.

- ii. **To approve and sign the annual governance statements for the year 2017-18**

Proposed, seconded, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

- iii. **To approve and sign the annual statement of accounts for the year 2017-18**

Proposed, seconded, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

18/55C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 5th April and 19th April 2018:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions. Members' attention was drawn to 18/68P, they were asked to send comments to the Chairman or town Clerk in time for a response to be prepared at the next meeting on 3rd May.

18/56C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2018

With minutes of the City & Tourism Forum held 8th March 2018:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions. 18/19CO: planters at the bus station have been constructed; the Open Spaces Team and the Town Clerk were thanked for their hard work on this project.

(Cllr Greenwell left the meeting)

18/57C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust: Nothing to report.
- ii. Mendip District Council: No matters to report.
- iii. Somerset County Council: Cllr. Munt gave her monthly report (copy available) and answered questions.

18/58C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Wells in Bloom 'Big Plant Out' will take place at 9am on Sunday 3rd June; volunteers are needed please.
- ii. Plastic-free-Wells; there will be a free talk in the Town Hall at 6.30pm on Saturday 28th April followed by a concert.
- iii. Changes to bus-stop signage at West Mendip Hospital, Glastonbury.

18/59C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Annual Meeting of Wells City Council will commence at:
3pm on Saturday 19th May (Mayor Making), in the Ball Room, Wells Town Hall;
adjourning to:
7.00pm on Thursday 24th May 2018 (continuation of business), in the Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall.