

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: R Ayres, C Cox, R Greenwell, R MacKenzie, C McKinnell, J North, J Osman (Deputy Mayor), C Price, T Robbins, D Swain, G Wilson, P Welch *when appointed*.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
Mace Bearer: M Goody
County Cllr. T Munt; District Cllr. T Ronan
16 members of the public

18/125C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from:
Cllr M Brandon; N Kennedy; H Siggs, C Wride (The Mayor)

18/126C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012: None declared.

18/127C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON

27TH SEPTEMBER 2018: Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

18/128C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Organisers of the Wells Food Festival reported that the event had once again been very successful. They asked for their thanks to be recorded to the City Council for the use of the Town Hall on the day, and to the staff for their assistance; also to all the organisations and volunteers who helped to make the event possible.

18/129C CASUAL VACANCY

Co-option to fill a casual vacancy in the Wells Central Ward:
Four candidates had applied for the vacancy; their details had been provided to members. The candidates were present and each introduced themselves. An elimination vote was conducted. In conclusion it was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed, that Philip Welch be co-opted onto the Council.
Cllr. Welch signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took his seat on the Council. He was welcomed by the Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Council; he thanked members for showing faith in him and pledged to do his best to serve the City.

18/130C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor was absent due to ill-health.
The Deputy Mayor reminded members to check the arrangements for the Remembrance Service and Parade to be held on Sunday 11th November.

18/131C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2018:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
The Chairman drew members' attention to information from Somerset County Highways; it will be necessary for the City Council to purchase winter grit and carry out the work if the grit bins need to be refilled in future.

18/132C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2018:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

18/133C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES & CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2018:
Cllr Robbins, on behalf of the Chairman, presented the minutes and invited questions.

- i. 18/26A Members were asked to note 18/26A, any questions should be directed to Cllr Price.
- ii. 18/30A Members were asked to note 18/30A particularly where it relates to the role of the Mayor.
- iii. 18/32A Cllr Swain sought Council's approval to purchase a picture of Her Majesty the Queen, to be displayed in the Council Chamber; he presented an option for purchase in the region of £100 - £200, including frame. There was some discussion and questions. Cllr Swain undertook to ensure that a frame of sufficient quality was provided at his own expense if necessary.
In conclusion it was proposed, seconded and agreed that Cllr Swain with Cllrs Siggs and Robbins (Chairmen of Archives and Finance Committees) would proceed with selection and purchase by officers.
- iv. Cllr North commented further on 18/30A

18/134C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2018
The Chairman presented the minutes and responded to a query.

18/135C COMMITTEE VACANCIES

To appoint one member to each of the following:

- i. Planning committee
- ii. Finance & General Purposes committee
- iii. Staffing committee
- iv. Archives & Civic Assets committee

All committee vacancies were filled; see attached list.

18/136C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None received

18/137C REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. **SCC:** Cllr. Munt commented briefly on reports of an increased funding gap at Somerset County Council.
- ii. **MDC:** Report from Cllr. Siggs had been forwarded to members.

18/138C REPORT ON TOWN TWINNING (Cllr. Robbins)

Cllr Robbins reported that a large amount of work has been done to try to produce a balanced report fair both to the Council and to the Twinning Association. There have been delays due to unforeseen sad circumstances; work will continue and the matter will be brought back to Council when there is a result.

18/139C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr. Ayres spoke about Plastic-Free Wells and questions of recycling.
- ii. Cllr. Robbins spoke about the Wells Carnival; as the Council's representative he is particularly aware of all the hard work the Wells Committee does. He asked that any questions or negotiations be directed via him; the Committee is under a great deal of pressure and one of the key members is very seriously ill.

- iii. Cllr. MacKenzie reported on a fresh application to site a telecommunications mast in his Ward. The Deputy Mayor urged Councillors to press the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Mendip Planning Board for actions regarding these mast applications, that is where authority lies.

18/140C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will take place at:

7.00pm on Thursday 22nd November 2018 in the Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall.