



WELLS CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL SUMMONS

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL,
WHICH MEMBERS ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND, WILL BE HELD IN
WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00PM**

Please note this meeting will be recorded for the purpose of minute-taking.

Steve Luck
Town Clerk

Town Hall, Market Place
Wells,
BA5 2RB
01749 673091
e-mail: townclerk@wells.gov.uk

18th January 2024

AGENDA

Wells City Council has declared a climate emergency. Each agenda item must consider the impact on any policy and decision.

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.
- 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 21ST DECEMBER 2023**
To be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.
- 4 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Mayor.
- 5 PRESENTATION ON KINOKOTCH FILM PROJECT BY DEBORAH RICHARDSON**
- 6 POLICE REPORT**

7 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday 6th March 2024, 7pm, Annual Parish Meeting at Wells Town Hall
More details to follow.

Sunday 17th March 2024, 3pm, Legal Service at Wells Cathedral

Mayor's Diary

- i. 7th Feb – St Thomas Church Ladies Group
- ii. 9th Feb - Mayor's Charity Quiz, Wells Town Hall
- iii. 12th Feb - Almshouses Board Meeting, Almshouses

8 STAFFING MEETING

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2024 (attached)

9 FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2024 (attached)

10 ANNUAL BUDGET (attached)

Recommendations from Finance & Council Matters Committee

- i To agree the annual budget for year 2024-25
- ii To agree the precept of £1,178,497 for year 2024-25 which includes contingency of £50,000 to provide any devolved services from Somerset Council, added to last year's contingency making a total of £100,000.

11 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2024 (to follow)

12 CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL 'DARK SKIES IN WELLS', PRESENTED BY CLLR DENIS (attached page 3)

13 DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS REPORT PRESENTED BY CLLR VON MENSENKAMPFF (report to follow)

14 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES Report received from Cllr Welch on The Connect Centre (attached page 4)

15 TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

16 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be **Thursday 22nd February 2024, 7pm**

Circulation List:

Town Clerk/RFO	Somerset Councillors	Wells Journal & Wells Voice
Town Clerk Assistant	Serjeants-at-Mace	Wells Chamber of Commerce
Cemetery & Burial Officer	Mayor's Chaplain	The Bishop's Palace
Outside Spaces Officer	Town Crier	Wells Cathedral
Wells City Council members	Wells Civic Society	Avon & Somerset Police
	WCC Internal Auditor	

Agenda Item 12 - Dark Skies in Wells

The Climate Emergency Working Group request the Full Council to debate and vote on the following statement:

Wells City Council will support any future initiatives taken by Somerset Council to ensure Dark Skies in Wells, between 11pm and 4am, to reduce energy consumption and to improve the nocturnal biodiversity of Wells.

If the Council vote to accept this proposal, we request that a letter is sent to Somerset Council to state the above.

Cllr D Denis

Jan 2024

Agenda Item 14 - Connect Centre Report



Eighty vulnerable people were treated to a lively festive lunch at the Connect Centre on Christmas Eve.

Food, soft drinks, Christmas cards and presents were all donated. A team of volunteers did all the cooking, serving and clearing up.

The photo above shows the volunteers who made it happen on the day gathered in the kitchen after the lunch was finished.

Then on Saturday 6th January Wells SOUP! returned to a packed Connect Centre with some people having to be turned away as there were no more seats.

The four charities or good causes taking part were the Art Experience Days which stained glass artist Edgar Phillips offers in the Portway Annexe, the six metre diameter Wells in Mosaic which may be going on the Recreation Ground when completed, WCN's Trishaw Project and Wells Air Cadets.

The following week Kean, the Connect Centre's chef, left for another job which may cause problems for the next Wells SOUP! as he used to open the kitchen, heat the two choices of soup which are made at the Blue School, put them in the serving tureens and supervise the washing up done by SOUP! volunteers.

The organisers of SOUP! hope a replacement for the highly respected Kean will be in place before their next event.

Meanwhile the Connect Centre continues with their Breakfast Drop-In on Mondays, Art Therapy Group, Health and Wellbeing sessions, Art Group, Dance Fusion and Friday's Soup Takeaway.

Councillor Philip Welch
17th January 2024