



**WELLS CITY COUNCIL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES
COMMITTEE, WHICH MEMBERS ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND,
WILL BE HELD AT WELLS TOWN HALL
ON THURSDAY 9TH JUNE 2022 AT 7:00PM**

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

Steve Luck
Town Clerk/RFO

1st June 2022

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

Committee Members:

Cllrs: L Agabani (Chair), T Butt-Philip, D Denis,
S Eden, N Kennedy, E Knott, D Orrett, S Powell

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 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012
- 3 MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH APRIL 2022**
Matters arising.
- 4 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Chair
- 5 OUTSIDE SPACES**
 - i Skateboard park - to receive an update from Lead Cllr L Agabani
 - ii To receive an update from the Outside Spaces Officer
 - a. Wells in Bloom plant out
 - b. Cemetery boundary wall
 - c. New premises and vehicle
 - d. Temporary staff
 - iii Wells in Bloom competition update from Cllr Denis (see attached)
 - iv Reports on Graffiti from Cllr Denis (see attached)
 - v Mendip Ecological Areas (see attached)

6 PORTWAY ANNEXE

- i. To receive an update

7 BISHOP'S BARN

- i. To receive an update from the Town Clerk on the progress of acquiring the Wells Recreation Ground Trust

8 PROPERTIES

- i. To receive any update from the Lead Cllr N Kennedy

9 ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 7th July 2022

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence it will be proposed by the Chairman that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended, excluding the press and public, in order that confidential property items can be discussed.

Wells in Bloom 2022

Schools- 2 volunteers- Linda Thomas and Aron Clay will organise the judging- to take place 22-24 June.

The Awards Ceremony will take place at the Bishops Palace on Thursday 30 June at 430pm. 130 tickets have been issued free to the schools for awards to be presented on the Romeo Juliette balcony if the weather is fine, or in the Undercroft if rainy.

10 schools have entered- 5 primary and 5 pre-schools. Sponsorship - Brownes Garden centre has given £100 towards prizes in Vouchers.

Gardens and Businesses—4 volunteers led by Emma Conner. Advertised in Wells Voice, applications in library, Whitings and Town Hall and on Wells CC website. Deadline extended to 30 June. Judging to take place weeks commencing 11 July and 18 July.

Would any Councillors like to take on working with this group to support them?

Allotments-3 volunteers Cllr J Brown, David Thompson and Maureen Bailey. Judging to take place 11 July.

Would any Councillors like to take on working with this group to support them?

Awards Ceremony for Gardens and Allotments

The Town Hall has been booked for Friday 14 November.

Would any Councillors like to help with the organisation of the Prizes and refreshments and event?

Cllr Denise Denis 31/5/2022

Open Spaces Reports on Graffiti

– Email Received from PC Pearson in response to complaint made to Cllr Denis by Jenny Rust about graffiti on side of no 41 St Thomas St. I invited him to the Open spaces meeting but he is unable to attend in person. In summary of his email

PC Pearson has shown a personal interest in tracking down graffiti artists as he has a strong sense of civic pride and wants to keep Wells clean. To date he has detected 17 cases of graffiti crime- involving a lot of time and perseverance in persuading private property owners to make the report to the Police. Graffiti on private property is not a matter for the police or council until it is reported or contains obscene language.

He was personally responsible for tracking down and arresting the recent case of the artist who was posting the ANOA logo all around Wells as reported in the Wells Voice.

Wells Neighbourhood Police team have been told they are now part of the Response Police Team and cannot attend Council meetings or spend time on neighbourhood policing due to shortage of manpower resources. However, they remain committed to helping where they can.

Currently, there are graffiti in Union Street in the Kings Head courtyard and along the passageway to the car park (residential property), and on the side of 41 St Thomas Street (residential Grade 2 listed). Once a property has graffiti it attracts a tag (from another artist) and so it goes on, as more are superimposed unless the graffiti is washed or painted over.

Cllr Denise Denis 30.5.2022

Mendip Ecological Areas

Mendip have been working towards a nature friendly approach to green spaces following Government advices in 2014 for Local Government to protect the environment for biodiversity. Now, along with Climate Change many councils have been looking at options to reduce cutting of verges where possible, not as a cost cutting exercise, but to help protect the biodiversity of wildlife which is needed to ensure we preserve what species of plants and insects and animals we can, before it is too late.

This Mendip initiative is asking local communities to become involved, as it can only work with the positive support of local people. I do hope that is something we all feel will benefit Wells and although some areas may look unkempt and not what we are used to, the wildlife will be thriving, and importantly the pollinators will find corridors.

[Trial launched for communities to re-wild Mendip land - Mendip District Council](#)

Prior to elections a working group of myself, previous Cllr A Bayley, Emma Jakins (Sustainability Officer), Sustainable Wells, Somerset Wildlife Trust and a volunteer Drew Horsfield met and planned a pilot project with Mendip Neighbourhood Services and Officers responsible for Environment and Sustainability. It was put on hold due to the elections and Legal Services delays, and the Mendip Press Release above was not discussed with the working party prior to its release, which has resulted in a few problems in how it will be managed, Mendip Officers are offering to work out how the pilot areas originally chosen will stay managed by Sustainable Wells and SWT. The 3 key areas should be Kidderbank, Tor Lane and Bishops Lea Close (Kewards Brook area). I would like to ask if there are any other Councillors who can help on the Working Party to get this off the ground.

Cllr Denise Denis 30/5/22