

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE DEVOLUTION PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.00PM

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani (Deputy Mayor), J Browne (Mayor), T Butt Philip, S Cursley, D Denis, S Eden, D Orrett, S Powell, G Robbins, H Siggs, I Von Mensenkampff, P Welch

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
RFO: C Woodland
Devolution Officer: H Wilkins
Facilities & Projects Officer: L Wassell
SC Cllr and MP for Wells and Mendip Hills: T Munt
WCC Staff: S Glendinning, P Frost
Press: A Vallis
42 members of the public, including the Mayor's Consort

The Mayor opened the meeting and thanked all those present for attending.

Prior to the meeting a newsletter had been communicated via Social Media, Wells City Council Website and Wells Voice. The newsletter included an invitation to this public meeting.

Somerset Council as part of its budget management challenges has stated its priorities and declared that it is required to cease a number of the tasks previously carried out by the Somerset County Council and for District Councils. It has suggested that various of these might be offered to the City Council as an alternative method of delivering those services.

The objective of the evening was to seek the community's views of the services being offered by Somerset, for Wells City Council to manage and maintain moving forward.

The meeting was a question and answer session and the public were asked to focus on the following subjects:

Playgrounds, Litterbins, Dog Bins, Dead Animal Removal, Fly Tipping/Fly Posting, Litter Picking, Grass Cutting, Tree Management, Markets, Public Toilets, CCTV, Graffiti Removal

The Devolution Officer explained the meeting had been arranged to coincide with key decisions being made by Somerset Council but unfortunately those decisions had been delayed. If officers were unable to answer questions a written response would be provided once more information is known.

A number of questions were raised and responded to within the meeting, which have been captured within the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and applied to the Councils website, and will be added to and updated frequently.

Following the open question time, a member of the public suggested that an open show of hands for each service function being discussed this evening, might help inform decision making. As such, each resident present at the meeting was asked to raise their hand if they were willing to pay more for the following services (there were 42 members of public):

Play Grounds	36	Grass Cutting	20
Litter Bins	42	Tree Management	23
Dog Waste Bins	23	Markets	37
Dead Animal Removal	28	Public Toilets	33
Fly Tipping/Fly Posting	19	CCTV	6
Litter Picking	N/A	Graffiti Removal	25

The Mayor thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.