

CITY OF WELLS

CITY OF WELLS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Minutes of Wells Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall.

PRESENT: WCC Cllrs: P Welch (Mayor), S Cursley (Deputy Mayor), L Agabani, D Denis, A l'Anson, S Johns, T Leach, S Powell, T Pullin, J Rust

IN Town Clerk Assistant, C Woodland

ATTENDANCE: 5 members of the public

- 1. Apologies** WCC Cllrs: J Browne, R Humphreys, N Kennedy, T Robbins
SCC Cllr T Munt
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2021**
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved, and signed by the Mayor.
- 3. The Mayor's Annual Report (Attached)**
The Mayor presented his report and invited questions. No questions were received.
- 4. Chair of Committee Reports**
 - i. Finance and Council Matters Committee**
Chair, Cllr S Cursley presented the report (attached) and invited questions.

Colin Price asked who was responsible for the running costs of the TIC - whether it is a joint venture with the Cathedral and / or Bishop's Palace; who is responsible for staffing the TIC and how did footfall compare with that of its previous location at the Wells & Mendip Museum?
The Chair confirmed the TIC and its Staff are solely the responsibility of WCC, supported by the Cathedral and Bishop's Palace through stock contributions and occasional volunteers. Footfall figures can be researched and confirmed in writing to C Price in due course.
 - ii. Planning and Environment Committee**
Chair, Cllr A l'Anson presented the report (attached) and invited questions.

Colin Price enquired was the MDC Local Plan going to be incorporated into WCC's Neighbourhood Plan, in particular with reference to Green Spaces?
The Chair confirmed that this was the case, the 25-30 Green Spaces outlined were also in the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - iii. Outside Spaces and Estates Committee**
Chair, L Agabani presented the report and invited questions.
 - The Outside Spaces Team were commended for their continuing hard work throughout lockdown and beyond. Their attention to ensuring the water channels along the High Street remain unblocked was mentioned.
 - The purchase of the Portway Annexe building is now official and Staff and Cllrs are working hard to achieve an opening date in May, particular thanks going to

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WCC Officer K Westwood and Lead Cllr A l'Anson. Strode College have expressed an interest in using rooms for their Adult Education Classes.

- WCC are continuing to support Wells Skatepark Charity in their bid for an overhaul of their existing site and updated equipment, the process could take 2 -3 years.
- Transfer of the Bishop's Barn from MDC to WCC is progressing and it is hopeful this may be concluded by April.
- Christmas Lights were once again a success, thanks to all who contribute to installing and maintaining the display.
- Wells in Bloom community participation and competitions will be back this year, thanks to Cllr D Denis for organising.
- The responsibilities and staff in the Outside Spaces team will be expanding and new dedicated premises have been found that will have more equipment storage space and proper staff facilities.

Cllr J Rust enquired about the Portway Annexe Management Group – it had been stated that the Committee would be meeting fortnightly as outlined on the Calendar of Meetings, but agendas and minutes had not been published since January?

The Chair explained meetings had been cancelled throughout February into March as the Lead Officer K Westwood and Lead Councillor A l'Anson had both been absent, and agreed it was an oversight that notice of cancellation was not published and this would be rectified going forward.

Colin Price asked who has control over decision making – the Portway Annexe Management Group or WCC Full Council Committee?

The Chair explained minor decisions could be made by the Management Group but any major decisions and expenditure would be put before Full Council for consideration and voting.

Cllr T Pullin asked that it be acknowledged that graffiti in Wells was still a major issue and that WCC be doing what they can to assist MDC in its removal.

5. Open Forum: an opportunity to discuss matters of interest to the community

No questions were raised.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.27pm.

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