

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020 AT 7.00PM

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT (VIA ZOOM):** Cllrs: L Agabani, S Briton, J Browne, P Crummay, S Cursley, O Hartley, R Humphreys, A l'Anson, N Kennedy, J Linsdell, J Osman (Mayor), J Parker, C Rees, J Rust, P Welch (Deputy Mayor), C Wride

**IN ATTENDANCE (VIA ZOOM):** Town Clerk/RFO: S Luck  
WCC Staff: A Westwood, K Westwood  
SCC Cllr T Munt  
MDC Cllrs Ronan, Rogers  
SCO Cllr M Cooke  
3 members of the public

**20/40C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
None received.

**20/41C DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012:  
None Declared.

**20/42C MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**  
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and will be signed by the Mayor.  
Cllr Hartley asked if the minutes in future could avoid using words like hostile as he felt it was not appropriate. The Mayor noted his comments.

**20/43C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
None wishing to speak.

**20/44C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**  
The Mayor reported it had been a quiet time for engagements but he had been attending meetings via zoom etc.  
On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June he will be meeting members of the Armed Forces to celebrate Armed Forces week.

**20/45C TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**  
The Town Clerk presented his report and answered questions on Wells in Bloom and Open Spaces. Members thanked the Team for making the City look colourful.  
The new Town Hall internet connection should be completed next week.  
Cllr Briton enquired about the resetting of budgets and the Town Clerk agreed this would be needed when the Council income was known.  
The Mayor Cllr Osman thanked the Town Clerk and all the staff for their work during the current Covid 19 emergency.

**20/46C AUDIT FOR YEAR 2019-2020**

- i) Receive and note the report from the Council's Internal Auditor
- ii) To approve and sign the Annual Governance statements for the year 2019-2020
- iii) To approve and sign the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year 2019-2020

All the Audit and governance papers were proposed, seconded and approved by unanimous vote. The Mayor to sign the External Audit forms.  
The Town Clerk was thanked for his work preparing the Audit.

**20/47C FINANCE**

The Financial Report for May 2020 were presented by the Town Clerk and agreed by members.

**20/48C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on:

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
4<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2020  
7<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The Chairman presented the above minutes and invited questions.  
The minutes, excluding 18<sup>th</sup> June, were accepted in full by members.

The minutes of the meeting dated 18<sup>th</sup> June were discussed in full. Some members were unhappy with the way the meeting was conducted and declarations made. Cllr l' Anson read a statement on his own declarations to that meeting. It was agreed the minutes were an accurate account of the meeting and they were accepted by majority vote (7 in favour, 4 against and 5 abstained). It was agreed at the next meeting the process of the committee needed discussing and a way forward agreed.

**20/49C NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT**

i) Report to WCC Planning Committee on the Wells Neighbourhood Plan  
ii) Wells Neighbourhood Plan Project Plan  
The above reports were presented by Cllr l'Anson.  
Extra members were needed for the group and Cllr Humphries volunteered.

**20/50C LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION WORKING GROUP**

It was agreed to set up a Working Group. Proposed by Cllr Cursley, seconded by Cllr Hartley and approved.  
Cllrs Cursley, Hartley, Humphries, Kennedy, Parker, Welch and Wride agreed to be members. The Town Clerk will confirm the date of the first meeting.

**20/51C COVID 19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP**

A discussion took place as for the need of this working party, some members felt its work could be covered by existing committees. Cllr Rust expressed concerns it was not being set up in accordance with the WCC working party rules. She was asked to let the Mayor and Town Clerk know her concerns and they could be addressed.  
After further discussion it was moved to a vote.  
It was agreed to set up a Working Group proposed by Cllr Agabani, seconded by Cllr Welch and agreed by majority vote. (9 in favour, 2 against and 5 abstained)  
Cllrs Agabani, Browne, Hartley, Humphries, Parker, Rees and Welch agreed to be members. The Town Clerk will confirm the date of the first meeting.

**20/52C CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

Confirmed and noted. The July meetings will be by Zoom.

**20/53C WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

None received.

**20/54C DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Received and no questions asked.

**20/55C COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Received and no questions asked.

**20/56C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Rust asked when the agreed business continuity motion would end and the Town Clerk confirmed this would happen at the next Finance meeting.

**EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Note: If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence it will be proposed by the Mayor that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended, excluding the press and public to consider a Civic event.

**20/58C DATE OF NEXT MEETING** will be at **7pm** on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 via Zoom**