

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WELLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH MAY 2022 AT 7.00PM

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani, J Browne, S Cursley (Mayor), D Denis, S Eden, G Folkard, N Kennedy, E Knott, S Powell, T Pullin, T Robbins, H Siggs, I Von Mensenkampff, P Welch, D Woolven-Orrett

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
TC Assistant C Woodland
WCC Staff: K Westwood, A Westwood, C Hobbs
Mace Bearer Melanie Goody
SCC Cllr T Munt
Member of Press A Vallis
2 members of the Public

22/61/C ELECTION OF MAYOR

Cllr Browne nominated Cllr Cursley for Mayor of Wells City Council
Seconded by Cllr Denis
No other nominations were made
Votes were unanimous and therefore Cllr Cursley was elected as 648th Mayor of Wells City Council
Cllr Welch presented Cllr Cursley (Mayor) with the Chain of Office
Cllr Cursley swore the Oath of Allegiance and his signature was witnessed by Cllr Kennedy and the Town Clerk on the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Following a five-minute adjournment, the new Mayor was maced into the chamber

Cllr Cursley thanked Cllr Welch for his hard work during his period of office.
All Councillors gave a short introduction of themselves in turn.

22/62/C ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Agabani nominated Cllr Pullin for Deputy Mayor of Wells City Council
Seconded by Cllr Siggs.
Votes were unanimous and therefore Cllr Pullin was elected as Deputy Mayor of Wells City Council and took her place beside the Mayor.

22/63/C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cllr T Butt Philip

22/64/C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012.

22/65/C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH APRIL 2022

i. Page 1. Cllr Denis asked that Wells City Council continue with the proposal of inviting a MDC officer to speak about the Elim Centre Outreach service.
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and were signed by the Mayor.

22/66/C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A resident of St Thomas' Ward introduced herself to all Councillors and asked that they consider giving the public an opportunity to talk to a Councillor face to face.

22/67/C

TO APPOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRS

i Finance & Council Matters Chair

Cllr Agabani proposed Cllr Pullin and was seconded by Cllr Welch
Cllr Pullin was voted in as Chair of Finance & Council Matters

ii Outside Spaces & Estates Chair

Cllr Denis proposed Cllr Agabani and was seconded by Cllr Browne
Cllr Agabani was voted in as Chair of Outside Spaces and Estates

iii Planning & Environment Chair

Cllr Browne proposed Cllr Denis and was seconded by Cllr Powell
Cllr Denis was voted in as Chair of Planning and Environment

22/68/C

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ALLOCATION

The Town Clerk explained that the allocation of Committee members within the next week in readiness for the meeting scheduled for 19th May and will give Councillors time to consider the Meeting schedule and their availability. All Councillors were asked to contact the Town Clerk in the meantime for further information.

22/69/C

THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Town Clerk gave a brief outline of the General Power of Competence.
Cllr Agabani proposed that it be adopted and was seconded by Cllr Kennedy.
Councillors voted unanimously for the proposal

22/70/C

TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS AND OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS

i. To resolve that the Finance and Council Matters committee shall review for presentation to Council:

The Town Clerk explained that the review is an annual audit process. The Civic review is due and will be reviewed over the coming year.

- Standing Orders

Cllr Denis requested information about changing detail on the Standing orders. The Town Clerk responded that if the detail is in bold text this is statutory and unable to be changed.

- Financial Regulations

- Committees' terms of reference and related matters

- Ensure that all annual reviews required under Standing Orders are completed

Cllr Robbins proposed the Annual review and was seconded by Cllr Welch

Councillors voted unanimously for the proposal

22/71/C

APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

See attached list of the Councillors now representing Wells City Organisations

22/72/C

SOMERSET CITY TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS CODE OF CONDUCT

To receive and consider adopting at the June meeting.

Cllr Siggs suggested that there be included information for Cllrs to know what is expected of them and their entitlements as City Councillors.

The Town Clerk acknowledged the suggestion.

The code of conduct was voted on unanimously.

22/73/C

TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Munt introduced herself to the new Councillors as the re-elected Somerset County Councillor for Wells for the next five-year term. Due to the elections there is little to report this month. Cllr Munt said that she is happy to receive any questions.

22/74/C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Powell proposed that the suggestion of face to face access to Councillors be added to the agenda for the meeting of 30th June 2022. This was supported by Cllr Denis.
- ii. The Town Clerk mentioned that further to the recent closure announcement of the Wells branch, Barclays bank have asked to let a room at the Town Hall for meetings.
- iii. The Town Clerk reported that he has been proactive in trying to identify a suitable location for a temporary Post Office after the news that the franchise Post Office in Queen Street is coming to an end.

Cllr Kennedy suggested that Wells City Council once again contact the MP for Wells for assistance as before.

Cllr Kennedy requested that Councillors have access to a room within the Town Hall in order to hold meetings with members of the public and he was assured that there is a room available.

22/75/C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be Thursday 30th June 2022, 7pm

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.

Minutes signed by The Mayor: **Date:**