

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY CENTRE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2020 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani (Chairman), A Fawcett, l'Anson, J Linsdell, P Welch
(Deputy Mayor/Vice-Chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk/RFO: S Luck
Open Spaces Officer, M Culliford
SCC Cllr T Munt
0 member(s) of the public

20/01CO APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: C Rees, O Hartley

20/02CO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Welch declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8.3 as potential sponsor of bench.

Cllr L Agabani declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.2 as a landlord of a potential site.

20/03CO MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the City Centre & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd October 2019 were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

20/04CO MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None present.

20/05CO WELLS CEMETERY

The Open Spaces Officer gave an update on the biodiversity report he is arranging with Gods Acre at the cemetery. It will take place on Wednesday 29th April, time to be confirmed. Members will be invited.

Cllr J Linsdell raised concerns over media reporting of fees for local cemeteries. It was explained that the reason our fees are above average for interments is because our fees include digging fees, unlike other cemeteries.

20/06CO CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

i. The Open Spaces Officer reported feedback and comments received had been very positive and the display was well received. Planning for this year's lights will begin next month. Some new cross-street frames will be purchased.

ii. Members were asked to consider the alternative siting of an electrical box in the High Street to avoid ongoing supply problems.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed.

Cllr Welch thanked all the staff and volunteers for their hard work creating the display.

20/07CO ALLOTMENTS

The Open Spaces Officer reported no problems with the allotments. All rents had been paid, all were occupied and we still have a long waiting list. An article in the press about the allotments had been well received.

20/08CO STREET FURNITURE

- i. A dog bin request at Bekynton Avenue was considered by members. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to supply one at a cost of £350.
- ii. A request from a residents group for two noticeboards at Balch Road/Burcott Road was considered. Due to budget limitations it was proposed, seconded and agreed to purchase an initial one at a cost of £750. Consideration will be given to a similar request in future budgets.
- iii. Provision of benches in the High Street: The Open Spaces Officer reported he had surveyed possible sites in the High Street and due to its layout these were very limited. It was agreed Cllrs Linsdell and Agabani will work with him to look at the options. Cllr Welch reported Heads Up have offered to sponsor a 'talking bench' if a site could be agreed.

20/09CO HIGH STREET CROSS-STREET WIRES

Cllr Agabani reported that despite a lot of research, no affordable option could be found. Most users of the banners are charities and the cost of erection and taking down meant the project was unviable.

20/10CO DRAFT TREE POLICY

- i. The Draft Policy was circulated to members of this committee and the Planning committee. Members discussed various ideas and were asked to forward their thoughts to Officers and they will then complete the draft and return it to a future meeting for consideration.
- ii. To receive the cemetery tree inspection reports:
The Open Spaces Officer showed members the surveys he had obtained on all the Council-owned trees for the past two years. These give a clear condition and maintenance schedule of work required for each tree.

20/11CO MAINTENANCE REPORTS

The Open Spaces team have been working throughout the City clearing pavements, hedges and traffic islands etc.

20/12CO ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Linsdell asked about future Tourism support and whether this committee will be dealing with it. Members agreed this will be considered during the committee restructuring discussions. Cllr Agabani is the Council representative on the Heritage Partners Committee looking at Tourism matters.
- ii. Cllr l'Anson reported on the MDC Planning board passing the development planned for Elm close and the impact this will have on any future cemetery extension. Members were told the cemetery provision is in MDC Plan Part II. Members agreed to keep this under review when detailed plans for the site were received.

20/13CO DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6pm Thursday 16th April 2020