

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2024 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: J Browne (Chair), T Butt Philip, D Denis, S Eden, N Kennedy, G Robbins, S Powell (Vice-chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
WCC Cllr: L Agabani
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
1 member of the public

24/10/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Cllr: D Orrett

24/11/OSE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022
None received.

24/12/OSE MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2023 (Outside Spaces, Wells in Bloom, Portway Annexe)
Cllr Denis will follow up with the Outside Spaces Officer, Matt Johnson, whether he had gained any advice for seed mix for Tor Hill Woods. The Town Clerk confirmed no sandbags have been purchased by WCC as yet. The Fair have been approached to supply quieter/smaller generators. Cllr Powell spoke strongly about the need for the generators to be eco-friendly as in May, the fumes generated were not at an acceptable level. The Town Clerk explained the control of environmental issues remains with Somerset Council as we have no delegated authority but he would speak to the Fair Operator and Somerset Council again about these issues.

The minutes were signed as a true record.

24/13/OSE MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Nobody wished to speak.

24/14/OSE SKATEBOARD PARK
Cllr Agabani gave an update on behalf of the Skateboard Park Community Group. The attached report had been provided. A decision has been made to stay with the current location between the Blue School and Waitrose but the licence to occupy this land has now expired. They have been advised to submit a Planning Application. To move the project forward, a meeting will be set up with Wells City Council, the Architect and the Developer to discuss the Planning Application before it is submitted.

Cllr Agabani then left the meeting.

24/15/OSE OUTSIDE SPACES
The Town Clerk provided an update. The Outside Spaces Team have reduced the hedge height around Tucker Street car park at the request of the local Police to allow easier visibility. They have also worked with the Catholic Primary School to reduce the hedge on Lovers Walk. In the Recreation Ground they have cleared the bottom of the trees. Agreement has at last been sought between Somerset Council and the Arborist and as a result a Planning Application is being submitted to carry out cosmetic work on the trees in the Recreation Ground area. Some of the signage has been removed for renovation. The new benches will be put in place when the ground

is drier. From the S106 money we have been informed there is £9,600 available to spend on play equipment. This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

24/16/OSE MONARCHS WAY NOTICEBOARD

Cllr Denis advised she had been approached for Wells City Council to display a Monarchs Way Noticeboard which had been designed by a local resident. No planning permission is needed as it is a temporary structure. After discussion Cllr Denis proposed for the noticeboard to be placed in the Recreation Ground near the Bishop's Barn/Water Fountain with a picture of the Barn included. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Browne and unanimously agreed by the committee.

24/17/OSE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr Denis advised the Wells Environment Network are planning an environment week in October to coincide with the Food Festival and Literature Festival. On Friday 11th Oct there will be an opening event. The focus for the week will be on 'Farming, Food and Flooding'. More details to follow.

Cllr Butt-Philip advised there was a Flood Café planned for 26th March and 4th May in Glastonbury. This is a drop-in event for anyone in the area to discuss flooding concerns with Somerset Council and the Somerset Rivers Authority. He asked the Town Clerk to circulate the details.

24/18/OSE WELLS IN BLOOM

The Town Clerk has been contacted by Somerset Council, Highways and Transport. A new initiative has been suggested for roundabouts to be subject to an advertising scheme run by them. They are suggesting one sponsor per roundabout, they will cover the cost of the plants but receive the sponsor money themselves. The roundabout here in Wells, at the start of Glastonbury Road, has been highlighted by Somerset Council to be included in this scheme. The Committee were not in agreement as the sponsorship from the roundabout supports Wells in Bloom. Cllr Denis advised plans were in place to plant the roundabout with pollinating plants. It was agreed for the Town Clerk to write to Somerset Council to advise Wells did not wish to take part, asking Cllr Butt Philip and Cllr Tessa Munt for their support.

Cllr Denis updated everyone on the following:

Wells in Bloom competitions were up and running for both schools and allotments. Entries are already being received. An article is going out in Wells Voice on 24th March to involve the community.

The Bus Station planters are all planted up and looking good. Cllr Denis requested to obtain costs to purchase aluminium signage for these planters, to explain the pollinating friendly planting. It was agreed for prices to be obtained through the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

A local resident, Sylvia Hanks, has kindly provided suggested planting for the proposed Sensory Garden in the Recreation Ground. Cllr Denis proposed for her to obtain quotes to purchase plants and progress with the planting. This was seconded by Cllr Kennedy and unanimously agreed by the Committee.

24/19/OSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Cllr Browne raised the format of the Committee meetings. Currently they run switching the focus every other month as follows:

- Bishop's Barn & Recreation Ground
- Outside Spaces, Wells in Bloom, Portway Annexe

This format is to allow more discussion on these topics at each meeting. Cllr Denis felt two months was a long time to hold issues over. After discussion it was agreed to

continue with this format but any issues felt to be urgent and not on that month's agenda could be added by contacting the Town Clerk and Committee Chair.

24/20/OSE ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT
None received

24/21/OSE DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 4th April 2024 (Recreation Ground & Bishop's Barn)

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: It is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it was proposed by the Chair that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended to allow a private property report.

Minutes signed by The Chair:

Date:

24/14/OSE Update from the skatepark – March 2024

We have had very positive conversations Somerset Council, we are lucky enough to have an architect working on the skatepark groups behalf and liaising with Planning

From a highways perspective, planning didn't see any problems

Somerset Public Right Of Way (PROW) Officer – could not see any reason why they would object to the proposals.

Land Ownership question - we just need to make sure the planning application notifies who we believe to be the landowner, as they need to give permission which we have discussed with highways and can be addressed at this stage.

There may be a temporary closure of the PROW required, but this will be addressed during the course of the application

It's been recommended to put in an application so we would have opportunity to review / fine tune as the application progresses.

Waitrose are agreeable to the idea of allowing access for the community project but need a firmer schedule of works to be able to provide an agreement in principle which Maverick are working on.

Emphasis is on getting an application in and as it's a community project Somerset should keep the application running if anything crops up focusing on collaboration / constructive discussions

Maverick are supportive as always and are currently renewing their evaluation of the access as a wider team to provide us a potential plan going forward.

The skatepark community group would appreciate renewed support from the council in helping to move the project forward and would like to set up a meeting with the city council, Architect, Developer and the Skatepark group to discuss the planning application.

Bev

The logo for Wells Skatepark features the word "Wells" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a thick black curved line arching over it. Below this, the word "Skatepark" is written in a larger, bold, sans-serif font.

wellsskatepark@gmail.com