

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH APRIL 2024 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: J Browne (Chair), D Denis, S Eden, D Orrett, S Powell (Vice-chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
1 member of the public attended

Non-attendance: None

24/22/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllrs: T Butt Philip, N Kennedy, G Robbins

24/23/OSE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022
None received.

24/24/OSE MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2024 (Recreation Ground & Bishop's Barn)

The minutes were agreed and signed.

24/25/OSE MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Chair read out a letter received from a member of the public, June Hodgson, asking for an update on the progress of the trees in the Recreation Ground. This will be addressed later in the meeting 24/26/OSE.

Chris Winter was present at the meeting. Chris had visited the barn and had come to the meeting to offer her help with progressing the recreation project forward. This will also be updated later in the meeting 24/28/OSE.

24/26/OSE RECREATION GROUND

The Town Clerk gave a report on the following:

- i. Tree survey, planned works
MTL, the arborist, is carrying out a drill survey to check the current status of the trees. Once this information is received, Cllr Denis suggested WCC submit a Planning Application at £289. This was proposed by Cllr Denis, seconded by Cllr Powell and agreed. Cllr Eden abstained. The Town Clerk advised three companies would need to be approached to submit the application as the cost is likely to be over £500.
- ii. Refreshment stand tender
A few enquiries have been received. One applicant has proposed to pay Wells City Council £50 per day, weather dependant. It was agreed to proceed with a month's trial.
- iii. Sensory garden update
The Outside Spaces team have started clearing the area for the sensory garden. It was agreed for Cllr Denis to send a letter of thanks to local resident, Sylvia Hanks, who had provided lots of ideas for this project.

The Town Clerk also advised the new benches were now being installed in the Recreation Ground area.

There had been some anti-social behaviour in the toilets over the weekend which had been cleaned up.

ID Verde were no longer cutting the grass in the Recreation Ground, so this was being carried out by the Outside Spaces Team. They were also going to paint the railings in the park and an additional member would be joining to carry out the summer watering. No progress has yet been made on maintaining the paths.

24/27/OSE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

It was agreed the Outside Spaces Officer will be asked to obtain three quotes from suppliers to enhance the current playground equipment, to improve safety and accessibility, with a budget of £45k. A quote for equipment for older children should also be obtained. Ideas for this were table tennis, basket-ball, chess table. It was agreed for these quotes to be presented at the June meeting. The Town Clerk will clarify whether planning permission will need to be obtained for the new equipment.

24/28/OSE BISHOP'S BARN

The Town Clerk advised English Heritage had visited the barn who had confirmed the building was not at risk. They had listed immediate areas for improvement such as, repairing doors and stopping the water coming into the building. Cllr Powell suggested the council should consider a long-term vision and experts should be appointed to put this into action. Status Quo have performed in the barn, it was suggested by Cllr Denis that we write to the remaining band members and ask for their support. Chris Winter offered to write an article for Wells Voice asking for local volunteers to help shape the vision.

24/29/OSE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

There was no further update.

24/30/OSE ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr Powell thanked the Town Clerk for progress to date, in light of his recent ill health.

24/31/OSE DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 2nd May 2024 (Outside Spaces, Wells in Bloom, Portway Annexe)

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: