

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Denis, D Orrett (Acting Chair), S Powell, G Robbins

IN ATTENDANCE: RFO: C Woodland
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
MP for Wells & Mendip Hills: Cllr T Munt
Chair of Street Parish Council: Cllr B Knickerbocker

Non-Attendance: Cllr S Eden

24/66/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllrs: T Butt Philip, N Kennedy, P Welch (Chair)

Town Clerk: S Luck

24/67/OSE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

24/68/OSE MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2024 (Bishop's Barn & Recreation Ground)

Cllr Denis requested that in future the minutes were presented for accuracy not matters arising under the rules of the council Standing Orders.

The minutes were agreed and signed by Cllr Orrett as Acting Chair.

24/69/OSE MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Nobody wished to speak.

24/70/OSE RECREATION GROUND

The RFO in the absence of the Town Clerk provided an update on the following:

- Tents in the Recreation Ground. The Outside Spaces Officer has approached the individuals and the situation is being resolved, without the need to carry out any enforcement. To discourage rough sleeping, extra signage is being looked at for the area. Cllr G Robbins had been approached with concerns about the tents and asked what the procedure was. Cllr Munt suggested updating the Wells City Council website with instruction on the correct procedure and who to contact with this and other frequently asked questions.
- Playground Equipment. Broken items have been taken away for repair and will be returned shortly. Some benches have been repaired. The railings have been removed to open up the park.
- Valentine's Coffee. The initial trial period has proved successful. The RFO is now drawing up an official contract to extend the arrangement. Cllr Munt suggested that they should be invited to other key events such as carnival, food festival.

Cllr Denis asked when the play tower would be returned. Cllr Powell asked why the repairs had taken so long, summer was over and children have finished their school

holidays. Cllr Denis also questioned what the position was in purchasing and installing a table tennis table. Cllr Munt asked if it was possible to purchase parts for the play park for us to be able to replace/repair when the need arises to speed up the process.

It was felt these issues had not progressed and despite the work being carried out for Devolution, this should also be a priority.

The RFO agreed to look into all of these questions.

- Sensory Garden. Cllr Denis has suggested planting sensory plants in the area such as lavender/herbs, in movable planters. This would enable the plants to be moved as the park develops. Cllr Orrett asked if the membrane, which is visible in the sensory garden, could be covered with more bark or logs to improve the look of the area.

24/71/OSE TREE CONDITION ASSESSMENT

The tree condition assessment report had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Powell questioned that although the high priority work has mostly been carried out, there appears to be a lot of work which needs to be carried out within 3 years, do we have a plan and detailed costings of how this work will be completed. RFO to discuss with the Town Clerk and Outside Spaces Officer and this will be outlined in the forthcoming budget.

It was unanimously agreed to publish the survey on the WCC website.

24/72/OSE BISHOP'S BARN

The RFO confirmed costings for lighting improvements were being sought, in line with rules for listed buildings.

Cllr Powell asked Cllr G Robbins for feedback on her PRIDE event. Overall, the event and use of the barn was very positive. Cllr Orrett congratulated Cllr G Robbins on the successful running of her first PRIDE event.

Cllr Orrett also congratulated Cllr Pullin for her recent 'Tanys Transformation' event, where again the use of the barn was very successful.

It was agreed for Cllrs Orrett and Welch to produce a feedback form for barn users to complete, in order to take suggestions/learnings for improvements going forward.

Cllr Orrett confirmed Cllr Welch has spoken to the Chair of the Trustees at the Bishop's Palace who have suggested working together and help us with forming our vision for the barn.

24/73/OSE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr Denis had circulated her report prior to the meeting (attached).

The Climate Working Party Group has met with Natalie Barnett, Climate Change Adaption Officer at Somerset Wildlife Trust, to discuss Wells developing an Adaptation Plan for Flood Control and Management. It has already been rolled out in Burnham on Sea and Glastonbury. It would require community involvement and preferably council involvement. Although it was noted that there was a Public Devolution meeting scheduled after the September Full Council meeting and therefore there were time and prioritisation constraints, Cllr Denis requested for Natalie to attend the Full Council meeting and provide a concise/short 3 - 10 minute presentation followed by a proposal. RFO to ask the Town Clerk and Devolution Officer.

Wen Ecoweek+
Week commencing 11th October (see attached report).

24/74/OSE ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

A local resident, Lavinia Byrne had contacted Cllr Orrett about dogs not on leads in the moat area, despite a cygnet death earlier in the year. The RFO confirmed this would need to be taken up with the Church Commissioner.

Cllr Knickerbocker offered to send over a resolution tracker they have adopted in Street for actions to be taken, post meetings.

24/75/OSE DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 3rd October 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:

24/73/OSE

Climate Change Working Party Report 4 September 2024

The CWPG met with Natalie Barnett, Climate Change Adaptation Officer Somerset Wildlife Trust, on 24 July 2024.

SWT initiative to local communities to work on the very important issue of Flooding Adaptions and the possibility of developing an Adaptation Plan for Wells.

The outcomes of the meeting:

We agreed the following:

1. CCWG will request a Presentation to Full Council from SWT on the Draft Climate Adaptation Plan hopefully on 26 September.
2. A Proposal will be put to Full Council at that meeting for WCC to support the Draft Climate Adaptation Plan
3. Wen Ecoweek+ will insert a Workshop convened by SWT on 16 October as an evening event, with the following invited: Councillors, Chamber of Commerce, Green Organisations, School 6th Form Champions.
4. Consultation Process and subsequent steps to be decided following workshop on 16 October.

CCWG held meeting 3 September:

Wen Ecoweek+ is meeting the budget as agreed (1K for publicity- see attached).

£10K agreed from Finance (5k 2023 carried forward and 5K 2024)- CCWG requests that Finance Committee approves past requests for works to Portway Annexe and Town Hall for energy efficiency works to be activated.

LCN subcommittees- Highways, Flooding, and Active Travel- representatives from council and community- James and Cllr Denis to continue on Active Travel, Cllr Powell has offered to attend Floods and Cllr Orrett and James Mochrie will attend Highways.

Ecoweek- a positive event for supporting aims of Climate Change 2019 motion, and CCWG members have attended all WEN meetings this year to support and develop the programme, venues, and publicity. Timetable attached.

Next meeting of CCWG -13 November. Cllr Denis to book room

Cllr Denise Denis
Sept 2024