

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, THURSDAY 24th APRIL 2014

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Butt Philip (The Mayor); C Briton (Deputy Mayor);
D Anderson; A Denison; A Gibson; N Kennedy; J North; J Osman;
J Parkes; C Price; T Robbins; H Siggs; D Unwin; G Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White RFO: S Luck
Mace-Bearer: J Rood Chaplain: Ven. N Sullivan
1 Member of the press 1 Member of the public

14/47C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. The Mayor thanked everyone who had attended the Annual City Meeting on 22nd April. The main issues raised for discussion were:
 - Tourism
 - The future of the Recreation Ground and Bishop's Barn
 - Housing development
- ii. The Mayor has met with Mr Webb regarding the visitor information services. An advisory group is to be set up, Cllrs Butt Philip and Briton were nominated and appointed to represent the City Council.
- iii. The Mayor invited all present to the Mayor's Parlour after this meeting, to share in the traditional annual use of the Loving Cup.

14/48C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs. M Brandon; S Davies

14/49C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllrs North, Siggs, Unwin (and Cllr Osman when he arrived later) each declared a personal interest as members of Mendip District Council, in 14/48C Neighborhood Plan and 14/50C National Planning Policy Consultation.

14/50C MINUTES of the meeting of the City Council held on 27th March 2014 were amended (14/34C), proposed, seconded, approved, and signed by the Mayor.

14/51C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak

14/52C POLICE REPORT - PC Pearson:

- i. Pub Watch has been re-formed and is functioning well in the City
- ii. The recent PACT meeting identified speeding as a priority. Actions have been taken; Cllr Wilson thanked PC Pearson for this
- iii. An arrest for begging in the High Street has resulted in Court action
- iv. The Police are working closely with Mental Health services following the recent bridge accident, to ensure Police awareness of vulnerable people
- v. Local policing is currently being restructured, Wells is likely to have two Beat Managers

14/53C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2014:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
Cllr Siggs answered questions regarding applications fees for road closures; fees are likely to increase due to costs of compulsory advertisements.
Cllr Unwin reported the Swans of Wells fund has assisted many local groups and will be closing shortly.

14/54C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2014:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

14/55C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd April 2014 and 17th April 2014:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
(Cllr Osman arrived)

14/56C MINUTES OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE.

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2014:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
In answer to a question Cllr Siggs reported he is hopeful Mendip in Bloom will continue in the future.
Cllr Siggs commended Cllr Gibson for her work as Chairman of the Committee.
Cllr Gibson asked for volunteers on Sundays 11th May and 8th June – 8.30am start.

14/57C STANDING ORDER 3.b.i.

To amend Standing Orders (see attachment): To enable formal notice of Council meetings to be served by e-mail. Proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved.

14/58C WELLS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To receive an update and agree next steps:
The Council has written to MDC asking for the City to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area.
A budget sheet was circulated (attached). The Mayor explained that the matter before Council was the proposal to apply for a grant from Locality to fund the initial process.
The Mayor answered questions and the following points were clarified:

- i. The Council will apply for the grant and will work with the Civic Society through the Steering Group.
- ii. The Council retains the responsibility for administering the fund.
- iii. A clear structure will be put in place to ensure payments are properly authorised and accounted for.
- iv. It was agreed there is no commitment to continue with the Neighbourhood Plan process if the grant is not received.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to apply to Locality for the grant.

14/59C SOMERSET LEVELS & MOORS FLOOD ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION

To respond to letter from MDC:
Cllr Osman spoke about the flooding, the County response, and the financial issues. It was agreed that the City Council should support Cllr Osman in his efforts to secure fairer funding for Somerset. After discussion the Mayor and Town Clerk were asked to respond to the consultation to the effect that the expense should be met out of general taxation rather than local taxation.

14/60C NALC CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

It was agreed members could respond individually.

14/61C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

I. Aster Homes Neighbourhood Panel

Cllr Unwin reported his participation in 4 meetings to date; the group has supported several local causes financially and is very worthwhile.

II. Transition Wells

Cllr Briton reported there will be a free demonstration of the thermal imaging camera, 7.30pm Wednesday 30th April at the Museum.

14/62C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Kennedy thanked the Mayor for all his work, particularly the way he had led the Council meetings. He had been even-handed and fair, and had a very good year.

14/63C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

To note that the annual meeting of the City Council will open with:

'MAYOR MAKING' 5PM SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2014

General business will be deferred to:

7PM WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 2014

(European Elections take place on Thursday 22nd May 2014)