

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2014, 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: C Briton (The Mayor); G Wilson (Deputy Mayor); D Anderson;
M Brandon; S Davies; A Gibson; N Kennedy; J North; J Osman; J Parkes;
C Price; T Robbins; H Siggs; D Unwin.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: M Goody; Chaplain: A Wheeler
1 member of the public; 1 member of the press.

14/134C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr T Butt Philip. Cllr Unwin would arrive late.

14/135C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012:

None declared.

See **14/145Ciii**.

14/136C MINUTES of the City Council meeting held on 25th September 2014

(attached) were proposed, seconded, approved, and signed.

14/137C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A member of the public referred the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to a large amount of material gathered under a project entitled 'The Wells We Want' some years ago.

14/138C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PC Darren Pearson was welcomed to the meeting. He reported on recent incidents in the city and answered questions. The Mayor thanked him on behalf of the Council for his efforts in arranging to continue attending; this contact is much appreciated.

14/139C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor drew members' attention to the following events:

- i. Annual Remembrance Service 9.45am Sunday 9th November, at St Cuthbert's church
- ii. Armistice Day 10.50am for 11am 11th November, at the Conduit
- iii. Mid-Somerset Carol Concert Thursday 11th December, Wells Cathedral

14/140C MINUTES OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September (attached):

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

Since this meeting the annual Awards Presentation Evening had taken place; the South West Regional Award was presented to Wells in Bloom. The Mayor congratulated the team; he thanked the Chairman Cllr Brandon for all her work and for such a pleasant evening. The Mayor and Mayoress were thanked for giving their time to present the Wells in Bloom awards.

14/141C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd October (attached)

The Vice-Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

14/142C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2014 (attached):

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

RECOMMENDED

- i. **To adopt Financial Regulations 2014** (attached)
Proposed, seconded and agreed.
- ii. **To delete Standing Order 1.m.** (in accordance with the Openness & Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014)
Proposed, seconded and agreed.
- iii. **To amend the Press and Media Policy** (attached)
Proposed, seconded and agreed.

14/143C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES & CIVIC ASSESTS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October (attached):

The Chairman presented the minutes and answered questions.

RECOMMENDED

To adopt the Civic Review October 2014

Proposed, seconded and agreed.

The Chairman thanked the committee and particularly the Town Clerk, for all their detailed work on the Civic Review.

14/144C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd October and 16th October (attached)

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

14/145C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Cllr Parkes reported about 30 public consultations have been held so far, with approximately 7 more to go. During December the results will be analysed and summarised, for presentation and then further consultation in January. In answer to a question, Cllr Osman gave an up-date on Broadband; most of Wells should be connected by 2015; Somerset County Council has given £10,000 to cover additional areas; 95% of Somerset should be covered by 2017.

ii. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr North spoke about fund-holding and proposed changes to governance; he answered members' questions.

iii. Wells Sports Clubs

Cllr Gibson had attended a meeting on behalf of Cllr Price; she reported the clubs have asked to renew their lease for 35 years in order to draw down funding from other sources. She proposed that the City Council write to Mendip District Council supporting the clubs' request.

(Cllr. North declared an interest as MDC representative to the Sports Council, Cllrs Siggs and Osman declared an interest as members of MDC)

Members felt that the sports clubs are an important asset to the city. The proposal was seconded and agreed.

(All in favour, except the 3 District Councillors abstained)

iv. Somerset County Council

Cllr Osman reported SCC has just completed a Peer Review, early indications show positive feedback. The budgeting process for 2015-16 has just started; a reduction of £31million in the government grant is anticipated. (Cllr Unwin arrived)

v. Mendip District Council

Cllr Osman reported the extension site at Wells Tesco is up for sale; therefore it is unlikely there will be any S106 money which was to have funded a crossing at Princes Road.

vi. Wells Almshouses

Cllr Parkes reported a costly refurbishment is taking place, fundraising is on-going; the accommodation is nearly at full capacity. Cllr Wilson reported the

Almshouses have now joined the Homefinder Choice First lettings scheme, to maximise accessibility for local people.

Cllr Unwin has given his resignation as he is unable to attend the board meetings, (held during the working day).

14/146C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Kennedy drew members' attention to the recent very successful Wells Food Festival. Cllr Wilson reported Mr O'Hagan will be speaking to the City Centre Management Committee. The Town Clerk was asked to write to thank the organisers on behalf of the whole Council and congratulate them on running such a successful event.

14/147C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on **Thursday 27th November 2014 (Budget and Precept).**