

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009**

**PRESENT:** Cllr C Borastero (Mayor)  
Cllrs D Anderson, M Brandon, T Butt Philip,  
J North, J Osman, J Parkes, C Price  
T Robbins, H Siggs and D Unwin

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk's Assistant

**FORMAL SESSION**

**09/024C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The apologies received from Cllrs Kennedy, Nicholas and Robertson were noted. Cllr Byrne did not attend.

**09/025C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations were made.

**09/026C REPORT FROM POLICE** PC Spencer-Scott Page reported the issuing of 98 tickets since the last meeting and brought to the members' attention the newly repainted lines in the High Street and Broad Street. The incorrectly marked disabled bay in the High Street would be rectified by Highways. PC Page brought a letter to the Council from the Acting Sector Inspector fully supporting the expansion of the alcohol free zone in the City to include the High Street, Broad Street, St Cuthbert's Church area, the Recreation Ground and Silver Street. The Shed project in the Bishop's Barn, helping the Wells youth to find an alternative place to attend on Saturday evenings was expanding and he wished to thank Cllr Osman for the sum of £500 towards the project which was run on an entirely voluntary basis by members of various church organisations in Wells.

PC Page introduced the new Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for Wells and Shepton Mallet, Sgt Muers who was welcomed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Robbins informed PC Page of an increase in the amount of vandalism in St Thomas Street added to which many of the residents felt unable to report such crimes fearful they may be considered too mundane. Cllr Robbins asked if the police might increase the number of times they patrolled the area. Sgt Muers felt very strongly that all residents should be encouraged to report all crimes to the police no matter how insignificant they might think they are. Cllr Robbins also brought to PC Page's attention the erratic nature of the Street lights, sometimes turning off at 9:30pm. This was not only in St Thomas Street but Bath Road as well. PC Page said that although this had been drawn to the attention of Highways but he would speak to them further on the matter. The Town Clerk's Assistant said she too would speak to Highways Lighting after the Easter break. PC Page informed the Council that "Rumble Strips" were being considered by Highways in St Thomas Street to slow the traffic down.

Cllr Siggs informed PC Page that at the Annual Parish Meeting the evening before members of the public had drawn to the Council's attention the litter problem on the Cathedral Green and ask for help from the police to enforce the notices in the area banning games with balls and the dropping of litter.

Cllr Brandon asked that the police kept a watchful eye on the loading bays

outside the City Arms which were being used by private cars and causing traffic holdups by vans and lorries unable to use the bays for the purpose they were intended. PC Page assured her that he and the PCSOs would be vigilant and continue to hand out parking tickets where necessary.

Cllr Osman asked PC Page if it would be possible to patrol the play area in the Nightingale and Spring Rise area which had become an area of mixed behaviour and to generally make a police presence known in the area. PC Page reported that this was already in hand.

Cllr Davies said he had received by e-mail "The Police Pledge" and asked for updates on the criteria. PC Page reported that this had been a national initiative and would ensure that Cllr Davies and the Council received any updates.

**09/027C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL** held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

Cllr Davies moved the adoption of the minutes which was unanimously **resolved**

**09/028C CORRESPONDENCE**

Members were informed that all correspondence was at their disposal in the office

**09/029C REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Osman reported on the successful installation of the SID in Bath Road which had however shown that the majority of vehicles using that road were travelling in excess of the speed limit and was in fact showing the highest average speed over a given area in the county. Cllr Osman was therefore able to inform SCC that this area should be prioritised when it comes to speed management. Portway and Glastonbury Road would be the next areas to use the SID in June and July and as a result of the Town Clerk writing to County Highways Ash Lane would also benefit from the device at a time to be decided. Cllr Price reported from the Sports Council and informed members that they had received a small reduction in their rates which would help the various clubs using the ground. The Archers were just beginning their season; the Tennis Club were now benefiting from using their new club room and had achieved promotion countywide. The Footballers were holding their own in the Western League and in particular the youths and girl teams had done well in the last season.

Cllr Davies reported that he had stepped down as Chair of the Chamber of Commerce and Cllr Sally Robertson had taken over.

**09/030C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

Cllr Siggs presented the minutes and moved their adoption as necessary which was **resolved**. Cllr North asked if it would be possible in the future to have sight of the financial reports a week before, or at the same time as the agenda was published. The Mayor suggested that the Meetings should be held seven days after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

- 09/031C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009.  
Cllr Parkes presented the minutes and moved their adoption as necessary which was **resolved**. Cllr Price asked if Wells City Council had responded to “Time to Plan”. Cllr Siggs suggested that as the document was of great importance a member from MDC planning might be invited to talk to members at the next possible Committee meeting. The Town Clerk’s Assistant said she would inform the Town Clerk and arrange for this to take place.
- 09/032C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009.  
Cllr Brandon presented the minutes and moved their adoption which was **resolved**. Cllr Brandon informed the meeting that the Bishop’s Palace would like to invite members of the Planning Committees from both WCC and MDC to show the proposals for the new developments in the Allotment area. The Town Clerk was asked to circulate to members details of such a meeting.
- 09/033C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009.  
Cllr Price presented the minutes and moved their adoption which was **resolved**.
- 09/034C ITEMS FOR URGENT REPORT** Cllr Unwin asked for an update with regard to the non-domestic rates at the Town Hall. Cllr Siggs explained the position saying that the transitional relief had only been a temporary measure since 2005. The Council would now budget for the increase but would however write to the Government asking for some respite.  
Cllr Siggs asked members to send best wishes to Jim Hardy, who had been an avid supporter of the City and who was recovering from a serious illness. The Mayor said she would write on behalf of the members.