

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2009**

**PRESENT:** Cllr C Borastero (Mayor)  
Cllrs D Anderson, M Brandon, T Butt Philip,  
S Davies, N Kennedy, J Nicholas, J North, J Osman,  
C Price, S Robertson, T Robbins, H Siggs and D Unwin

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk

**INFORMAL SESSION**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayers for Cllr John Parkes who had been taken ill the previous week. He also prayed for the City and Council and the Mayor with the additional unexpected responsibility she would be taking on. The Mayor received back the City Scarf and presented Peter Farrell with the traditional gift of wine, thanking him for his service over many years.

Mr Hudsmith congratulated the Mayor on a distinguished year and reminded her of issues raised at the Annual Parish meeting relating to Relief Road maintenance.

**FORMAL SESSION**

**09/035C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The apologies received from Cllrs Byrne and Parkes were noted.  
Cllr Anderson had seen Cllr Parkes that morning and his recovery was progressing well.

**09/036C ELECTION OF MAYOR**

It was proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Cllr Kennedy and unanimously **resolved** that Cllr Borastero be elected Mayor for the coming year. She signed the Declaration of acceptance of Office and appointed her husband as Consort.

**09/037C ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was proposed by Cllr Anderson, seconded by Cllr Butt Philip and unanimously **resolved** that Cllr Robbins be elected Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year.

**09/038C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations were made.

**09/039C REPORT FROM POLICE** PC Spencer-Scott Page sent the best wishes of the police to Cllr Parkes. He thanked the City Council and their staff for support at the May Fair. A request had been submitted for rumble strips in St Cuthbert Street. He was told that the enhancement to lighting in Market Street was in hand.

**09/040C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL** held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

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

**09/041C CORRESPONDENCE**

Members were reminded that all correspondence was circulated by e-mail.

- 09/042C      REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**  
Cllr North reported that the Board of Wells Tourism had met and were planning for the future.  
Cllr Robertson reminded members of the promotional event planned by Somerset County Council on 16<sup>th</sup> September details of which had been circulated.
- 09/043C      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009.  
Cllr Siggs presented the minutes and moved their adoption which was **resolved**.
- 09/044C      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009.  
Cllr Kennedy presented the minutes and moved their adoption as necessary which was **resolved**. Cllr Price asked about the affordable housing figures which had been circulated and by which he was disappointed. Cllr Siggs explained the background.
- 09/045C      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009  
Cllr Robbins presented the “minutes” and expressed his disappointment at the lack of attendance. The record was noted.
- 09/046C      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE** held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
Cllr Price presented the minutes and moved their adoption which was **resolved**.
- 09/047C      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
Cllr Price presented the minutes and moved their adoption. Cllr Anderson queried the cost of the repairs to the “Bastins” clock which Cllr Kennedy opposed altogether. It was **resolved** seven votes in favour and two against that the minutes be adopted.
- 09/048C      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 for adoption.  
Cllr Brandon presented the minutes and moved their adoption which was **resolved**.
- 09/049C      APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL’S COMMITTEES**  
The Council’s Committees were established according to the attached list. It was agreed that the Cemetery Committee should become a Sub-Committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor ex-officio, two members of the Finance Committee and two members who were not members of the Finance Committee.

**09/050C APPROVAL OF MATTERS AT NEW CIVIC YEAR**

**(i) Draft Calendar of Council Engagements**

Subject to meetings scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> June being rescheduled to allow for elections the draft calendar was approved.

**(ii) Council Standing Orders**

The existing Standing Orders were adopted

**(iii) Council Policies**

The Town Clerk explained that this would be a standing item until all policies had been approved by members.

**09/051C ITEMS BY CLLR UNWIN**

To ask the Council to reconsider the policy concerning the flying of flags on the Town Hall.

Cllr Unwin explained that he was raising this matter at the request of a member of the public. Until now flags were only flown on special occasions. Members felt that this enabled them to represent special occasions. In addition the flagpoles on the building were of such a design that flags flown permanently simply wrapped themselves around the pole. In a discussion the view was that the status quo be retained but the Town Clerk was asked to investigate the feasibility of the erection of a vertical flagpole on the Town Hall.

**09/052C ITEM FOR URGENT REPORT**

The Mayor thanked members for their support over the past year together with the officers and Council staff. Cllr Anderson expressed the willingness of members of the Council to assist Cllr Borastero as she embarked upon her unexpected second term of office.