

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 17th JUNE 2010

PRESENT: Cllr T Robbins (The Mayor)
Cllrs: D Anderson; M Brandon; C Borastero;
L Byrne; N Kennedy; J North; J Osman; J Parkes; C Price;
H Siggs. D Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk F White; RFO S Luck;
Inspector M Nicholson; PCSO D Williams;
1 member of the press. 1 member of the public

INFORMAL SESSION:

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayers

A member of the public requested that Councillors speak up.

FORMAL SESSION:

10/056C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs; S Davies (approved); S Robertson; Butt-Philip.

10/057C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllrs: Siggs, Brandon, Unwin, Osman, declared a Personal Interest in item 9. (car-parks up-date) as District Councillors.

10/058C REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Nicholson gave an incident report; spoke about the Neighborhood Policing Team and the annual crime figures. He mentioned "Operation Fragment" targeting scrap metal dealers, and Farm Watch. Chief Inspector Paul Richards is leaving after three and a half years; he will be replaced by Chief Inspector Richard Corrigan.

Councillors sent congratulations to Chief Superintendent Chris Ware on being awarded the Queen's Police Medal, and best wishes to Beat Officer PC S Page for a good recovery.

A report on the CCTV service will be given to the next Council meeting.
Other local matters were noted.

10/059C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL held on 14th May 2010 and 15th May were proposed, confirmed as a true record and signed.

10/060C APPOINTMENT OF WELLS CITY ALMSHOUSES TRUSTEE

Cllr. Kennedy was proposed by Cllr. Unwin and appointed.

10/061C MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE held on 13th May 2010 were presented and approved.

10/062C MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on 13th May 2010, 20th May 2010, 2nd June 2010 were presented and approved.

There was a discussion about whether the City Council should have sent a representative to speak at the recent MDC Planning Board meeting at which three Planning Applications for supermarkets in Wells were considered.

- 10/063C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on 10th June 2010 were presented and approved.
RECOMMENDED by the Finance & G P Committee:
That the City Council appoint a member to the Personnel sub-Committee from outside the Finance Committee.
Cllr. Osman was proposed and appointed to the Personnel Sub-Committee.
There was a discussion about whether the Chairman of the sub-Committee should be appointed by the Finance & G P Committee or elected by the sub-Committee at its first meeting. The Town Clerk advised the matter is not entirely clear and will be clarified in the new Standing Orders; election of Chairman will be the first item on the agenda of the first meeting of the Personnel sub-Committee.
- 10/064C MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL CAR PARKS**
Cllr. Unwin reported work is in progress, Mendip District Council accepts the recent changes have caused some problems; some meetings have been held; he invited the Mayor to report. The Mayor explained the Town Clerk attended a meeting with a senior officer at MDC resulting in a consultation meeting being set up between MDC, the Bishop's Palace and the Cathedral, hosted by the Mayor. The outcome was a better understanding between all parties; Cllr Unwin will continue to co-ordinate all efforts. MDC Car Parks Working Group is due to meet in mid-July to reconsider some issues; in the meantime some changes to signage have been agreed.
There was further discussion, particularly in relation to the problems caused to disabled drivers.
- 10/65C SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL PLAN**
Cllr Osman presented the SCC Plan and answered questions.
- 10/66C LOCATIONS FOR WINTER GRIT BINS**
A list of possible locations was drawn up; advice will be sought from SCC Highways regarding suitable sizes and exact positions before the bins are ordered.
- 10/67C HEARING LOOP**
Cllr Unwin spoke about problems experienced by people at a meeting of the Community Partnership in the Council Chamber; the current infra-red system does not appear to be in good order and the Council has duties under the Disability Discrimination Act.
Cllr. Price reported the matter has been raised at the Finance and General Purposes Committee and he is liaising with Town Hall Manager to prepare some information to report to the Committee at the next meeting.
- 10/68C REPORTS OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
Somerset County Council: Cllr. Siggs reported government changes have

had a great impact on all Councils and there is more to come. SCC and MDC are already committed to no Council Tax increases this year.

10/69C ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL OF THALES UK FROM WELLS SITE

Council agreed this is a major blow to the City. After consideration of the issues the Clerk was instructed to write to Thales urging them to reconsider and to MDC in support of their efforts to keep Thales in Wells.

10/70C ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Byrne asked a question about a grant and was referred to the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- ii. There being no further matters, the Mayor proposed that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended excluding the press and public, by reason of the confidential nature of a matter to be reported: resolved.
- iii. A statement was read; Councillors were advised regarding the Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests. There was no discussion and no decision was made.

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Meeting of Wells City Council will be at 7pm on **THURSDAY 29th JULY 2010**

Signed.....
(The Mayor)

Date.....