

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 8th April 2010

PRESENT: Cllr C Borastero (The Mayor)
Cllrs: D Anderson; M Brandon; S Davies; J North; J Osman;
J Parkes; C Price; T Robbins; S Robertson; H Siggs.
T Butt-Philip; S Davies; L Byrne

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk F White; RFO S Luck;
Ward District Councillor R Mackenzie; Inspector M Nicholson;
PC S Page; PCSO D Williams; 1 member of the press

INFORMAL SESSION:

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayers
The Mayor thanked Rev. Smith for his year of service and presented him with a gift.

FORMAL SESSION:

10/028C **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllrs; N Kennedy; D Unwin.

10/029C **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
None.

10/030C **REPORT FROM THE POLICE**
Inspector Nicholson reported reduced crime figures, spoke about successful partnership working and answered questions.
PC Page reported 63 penalty tickets were issued in the last 6 weeks. He thanked the Mayor for her support during the past year, particularly during events such as the funerals of Harry Patch and Sandy Padget, and the May Fair. He reported a drop in calls relating to anti-social behaviour, this is attributed to community partnership projects such as the car project; it is hoped similar projects will continue in the future.
PC Page was asked to ensure the Police patrol the Athletic ground particularly during the school holidays; MDC have been asked to provide better fencing, but the Police will do their best.
PC Page answered further questions and reported that the Headteacher is being kept informed of progress on the investigation into vandalism at the Central School site.
The Police were thanked for their attendance at City Council meetings.

10/031C **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL** held on 18th February 2010 were proposed, confirmed as a true record and signed.

10/032C **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**
i. Nomination of a Wells City Council representative to the City of Wells Almshouses Board of Trustees.
Councillor Robertson was nominated by Councillor Davies; Councillor Borastero was nominated by Councillor Parkes; it was agreed Councillor Robertson will be the Council's nominated Trustee.

- ii. Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting for the attention of Wells City Council:
A request was made for the Council to consider publishing a newsletter; it was agreed the Council shall review its communication with the public.
- iii. A letter of thanks was received from the High Sheriff for the hospitality of the City Council at the Legal Service.
- iv. The Town Crier was congratulated on winning the annual competition at Mells Daffodil Day.

10/033C **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE** held on 21st January and 10th March 2010 were presented and adopted.

10/034C **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held on 3rd March 2010 were presented and adopted. Councillor Price reported the Clock will be re-hung in the High Street on 16th April; the Mayor will be present to unveil it.

10/035C **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held on 25th February 2010, 11th March 2010, 25th March 2010 were presented and adopted. Councillor Osman explained the grant from his County Councillor's Local Initiatives Budget has been given to replace the Winter Grit Bins around the City; Members are asked to suggest locations within their Wards for the new bins. Councillor Siggs for Mendip District Council explained that all three Planning Applications for major supermarket sites in Wells will be considered by MDC Planning Board at the Blue School on 3rd June.

10/036C **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on 11th March 2010 were presented and adopted.

10/037C **CALENDAR OF COUNCIL MEETINGS for JUNE – DECEMBER 2010** was distributed.

10/038C **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**
The correspondence has been available for inspection in the Wells City Council Offices, there were no matters arising.

10/039C **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
Sports Council
Councillor Price reported on the need for a development plan for the Athletic Ground as the City Football Team progresses.
Friendship Agreement
Councillor Davies reported on the forthcoming Friendship Weekend; arrangements are in place for signing of the agreement; 13 people are coming from Germany and 4 from Poland. Cost to the Council will be minimal, a grant has been given from the County Councillor's Local Initiatives Budget.

10/040C **ITEMS FOR URGENT REPORT**

- i. Agenda items: the Town Clerk reported new Model Standing Orders have been issued nationally, for adoption this summer; she suggested a review of Agenda and similar items be carried out by the new Town Clerk with the review of Standing Orders.
- ii. Councillors were concerned that the website confirming closure of Wells Magistrates Court does not record opposition to the closure, even though telephone calls and letters of opposition had been submitted. There was a short discussion.
- iii. A request has been received to book the main hall for a political forum meeting on Sunday 2nd May, there are concerns about adequate staff cover; there was a short discussion.

10/041C **APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK
EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

In order that the following matters be considered in confidence, it was proposed by the Chairman that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended excluding the press and public: resolved. The press left the room, no public were present. The Clerk also left the room; the RFO took the Minutes.

To appoint Interview Panel and make arrangements for interview, selection, and recommendation to special Council meeting:

It was agreed that the following Councillors would shortlist the applicants and serve on the interview Panel: Councillors Anderson, Siggs, Robbins, Borastero.

The Mayor reported other confidential matters to the Council relating to forthcoming staff absences due to sickness.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There will be an Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council at 7pm on Thursday 15th April

The next full Meeting of Wells City Council will be at 7pm on **FRIDAY 14th MAY 2010**

Signed.....
(The Mayor)

Date.....