

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 AT 6.30PM.

**PRESENT:** Cllr: C Price – Chairman  
Cllrs: C. Borastero (The Mayor); D. Anderson; M. Brandon; T. Butt Philip; S. Robertson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F. White; Mr R. Cookman (Civic Society), Mr I. Burt (Tourism), Ms S. Duthie (Bishops Palace).

#### **10/01CC APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: S. Davies and J. Nicholas

Mr Roberts (Cathedral), Mr Green (Commerce) Ms Swain (MDC), Ms Blair (The Crown)

There were no other members of the public present.

Mr Roberts will be retiring from the Cathedral in the next few months; the Committee members recorded their grateful thanks for his support and participation in the Committee, and wished him well in his retirement.

#### **10/02CC DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

To receive any Declarations of Interest under the Local Authority (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 issued under SI No. 1159 including paragraph 12(2).

There were none.

#### **10/03CC MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009.**

The minutes were noted and approved.

#### **10/04CC CHAIRMANS REPORT**

##### **Clock**

The various parts are almost complete; the clock should be back in place by the end of the month.

The project Manager is finalising the arrangements for ongoing costs but the understanding is that maintenance will be minimal.

#### **10/05CC CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Future options were considered; there was a general discussion and members of the group were invited to make suggestions.

The Chamber of Commerce currently supplies the tree in the Market Place at a cost of £650; traders are each offered a tree outside their own store but there is generally a low up-take.

This year all the participating Traders have asked for re-imbusement of their electricity costs; the Christmas lighting Budget has covered this.

In conclusion it was agreed:

- i. The lights have been a great success the last few years and should continue. It was agreed that although it could be said that the High Street traders benefit most, the display is an asset to the whole Town.
- ii. The supplier has proved very satisfactory. Cllr D. Anderson will ask what options are available for different displays, and for an estimate of the cost of bringing the electrical equipment in Broad Street into use.

**10/06CC REINDEER PARADE**

The parade was successful and will go ahead next year.

**10/07CC NIGHT ON THE TOWN**

Somerset County Council is unlikely to provide any resources this year. It was agreed that the cost is not high and with clerical support from the Town Council the event should be able to go ahead this year; the Police are in support.

The Licence and Insurance situation will be checked.

Cllr D. Anderson requested it be minuted that he would like the Town Clerk to be involved, (when the permanent Town Clerk has been appointed.)

**10/08CC PUB WATCH**

Update deferred to next meeting.

**10/09CC HIGHWAYS**

Moat walk to Tor Street pot holes – the Cathedral Office are in contact with their contractors and Mendip District Council about this.

**10/10CC CHARITY STALL ON MARKET DAYS**

The Mayor reported there had been a problem with a booking on the Charity Stall as the user wished to bring live animals. After some discussion it was agreed that while the Council is keen to be as helpful as possible, it reserves the right to use discretion on each application.

**10/11CC ALCOHOL SIGNS**

Written permission has been agreed by St Cuthbert's PCC and passed to MDC Community Safety Crime Reduction Officer; the signs are ready and should be in place shortly.

**10/12CC LAMP POST TESTING**

Testing of hanging baskets by MDC was abandoned after long delays; an alternative solution has been found: a supportive cradle was designed and fitted; this proved very satisfactory. Members are very pleased with the outcome and will be using these cradles on all the posts as they provide a versatile and attractive foundation for displays.

**10/13CC ITEMS FOR URGENT REPORT**

**i. Bishops Palace:**

busy with Fund raising at present.

**ii. Hoarding over Thompson's Travel Agency.**

This is unsightly; the agent has given permission for something to be done to make it more acceptable; various suggestions were offered.

A quote of £500 has been obtained for a sheeting cover.

It was agreed to follow up the possibility of having a managed Youth Art Project.

**iii. 40 Union Street.**

The property is thought to be on the Listed Buildings at Risk Register, enquiries will be made at Mendip District Council Conservation and Planning Departments to find out what is happening to it.

**iv. Heritage Week**

It was agreed to take part in Heritage Week in September, it is expected the Town Hall will be open with some Archives on display; the Civic Society will be involved with the opening of the Old Deanery, and the Bishops Palace will be open.

The date of the next City Centre Management meeting is **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 6.30 p.m.**