

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 20th DECEMBER 2012, 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon (The Mayor); T Butt Philip (Deputy Mayor); C Price; T Robbins; D Anderson; G Wilson; N Kennedy; D Unwin; A Gibson; H Siggs.

IN Town Clerk: F White.

ATTENDANCE: RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: J Rood; Chaplain: A Glanville.
1 member of the press; 2 members of the public.

12/167C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: J Mitchell (approved); J Osman; A Denison; J North; S Davies; C Briton.

12/168C i. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS None.

ii. Dispensations were granted to allow members to participate and vote in relation to setting of the Precept for 2013-14, to be considered at this meeting and any related meetings thereafter. (Standing Order 7e)

12/169C MINUTES of the meeting of the City Council held on 29th November 2012 were proposed, seconded accepted and signed.

12/170C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

12/171C PRESENTATION

The Parishes' Representative from the Mendip Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Cllr Taylor (MDC) spoke as Parishes Representative to the AONB and as Portfolio Holder at MDC for Enforcement and Regulatory Services.

12/172C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PC Strong explained he is returning to Street; he introduced PC David Coombes who will cover the Wells Beat until PC Pearson returns.

PC Coombes read a report from Sgt Muers regarding the closure of Whiting Way car park at 8pm; there was a long discussion about this and he answered questions. Cllr Unwin reported from MDC Car Parks Working Group that the current solution is a temporary arrangement.

Cllr Unwin thanked Sgt Muers and PCSO President for their responses to recent problems.

12/173C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor has enjoyed all the Carol Services and events this month. The next event for Councillors' attention will be the Bishop Bekynton Service on Sunday 13th January 2013.

12/174C COUNCIL CALENDAR

To approve the calendar of meetings for 2013: Resolved.

Cllr Kennedy resigned as Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee.

12/175C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2012 (attached) and approve recommendations.

The Chairman drew members attention to 12/138F; MDC is constructing a legal agreement for the transfer of S.106 funds to the City Council; assent was given to use of the Council Seal on the transfer document.

Cllr Price questioned minute 12/134F ref.112/130F date of the Crown Court development work.

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 12th December 2012 were proposed, seconded and adopted.

RECOMMENDED:

i. **BUDGET FOR 2013-14**

The draft Budget was proposed, seconded and approved, to be returned to Council in January for adjustment and setting of the Precept following any new information.

ii. **Press and Media Policy**

The revised policy was proposed, seconded and approved.

12/176C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2012 (attached).

The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.

Members were asked to note there will not be a meeting of this committee on 3rd January as there are no applications due for consideration; the next meeting will take place on Thursday 17th January 2013.

12/177C MINUTES OF THE CEMETERY AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2012 (attached)

The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.

12/178C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. Cllr Siggs (SCC and MDC) spoke about the recent government announcements; initial assessment of the implications is currently being calculated; it appears there will be no immediate impact on town and parish councils.
- ii. Cllr Unwin (MDC) thanked Cllr Taylor (MDC) for attending and for the good work done on Enforcement, particularly fly-tipping.
Cllr Unwin will continue to report back from the Car Parks Working Group.
- iii. Cllr Robbins conveyed thanks from the Carnival Chairman for the City Council's letter; the committee is enjoying the closer working relationship with the Council and hopes this will continue.

12/179C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Kennedy spoke of the great year 2012 has been for Wells, he cited the awarding of Honorary Freedoms, the Olympic Torch and the Swans of Wells; he particularly offered a vote of thanks to Cllr Unwin and his team for the beneficial effect the Swans had for Wells; this was seconded by Cllr Robbins and all were in agreement.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Mayor thanked everyone for their support during the year and wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

The next meeting will be at **7pm on Thursday 24th January 2013**