

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 24th JANUARY 2013, 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; J Osman; A Denison; J North; C Briton.

IN Town Clerk: F White.

ATTENDANCE: RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: G Weatherhead; Chaplain: A Glanville.
1 member of the press; 1 Police Community Support Officer
No members of the public.

13/01C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr: S Davies.

13/02C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- i. Cllr Briton declared a personal interest in item 11. (13/12Ci.), as a County Council employee.
- ii. Members were asked to check their records of Registration of Interests, prepared by Mendip District Council Monitoring Officer.

13/03C COUNCILLOR MITCHELL

The Mayor spoke about the sad loss of Councillor John Mitchell; condolences had been sent to the widow as soon as the news was received, she thanked Cllr Kennedy for giving the tribute at the funeral, which she had attended with her Consort and Councillors.

The Mayor then led a few minutes silence, inviting all present to remember Cllr Mitchell in their own way.

Cllr Kennedy conveyed thanks from the family to the Mayor and Council for attending the funeral and for all the kind condolences sent.

13/04C MINUTES of the meeting of the City Council held on 20th December 2012 were proposed, seconded accepted and signed.

13/05C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None present.

13/06C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PCSO A. Scriven gave the Police report and answered questions:

- i. The recent increase in graffiti around the City was reported in the Wells Journal; some progress has been made and it is hoped there will be a positive result soon.
- ii. Anti social behaviour in Tesco car park; a S. 59 notice has been issued (driving in a reckless manner).
- iii. Whiting Way car park: there has been only one vehicle accidentally locked in; quickly released by PCSOs, who have the combination lock number.

13/07C CASUAL VACANCY

i. To notify members of electoral arrangements regarding the Casual Vacancy in the St Cuthbert's Ward of the City:

A vacancy had arisen following the death of Councillor John Mitchell. Statutory notifications were in place.

ii. To consider use of Polling cards in the event of a bye election.

Information had been provided to members.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved, that use of Polling Cards should be requested.

- 13/08C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
i. The Mayor reported on recent appointments attended. She particularly mentioned meeting past Mayor Eileen Giles. She thanked the Dean of Wells Cathedral for his hospitality.
ii. Monday 11th February: The Police Crime Commissioner will be holding a Beat Surgery open to the public, in Wells Town Hall. Cllr Osman announced he also has a meeting with the Commissioner next Friday he invited a Wells Councillor to accompany him, it was agreed Cllr Siggs will attend.
Councillors felt that the Commissioner should attend and speak to the elected representatives of the City; the Town Clerk was asked to write to her again.
iii. 13th February 7pm: The Mayor's Charity Fashion Show.
- 13/09C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2013 and approve recommendations.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.
RECOMMENDED:
To approve the adjusted Budget and set a Precept of £327,257 for the year 2013-14.
Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED.
The Chairman thanked members for their work at the long meetings involved in reaching these decisions.
- 13/10C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 20th December 2012 and 17th January 2013
Questions were answered regarding the Council's response to the MDC Local Plan consultation.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.
- 13/11C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2013
The Chairman drew members attention to 13/05CC Christmas lights and 13/07CCii. Market.
Questions were answered regarding 13/06CC Jane Austen Society(ii) and Night on the Town(iii).
The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.
- 13/12C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
i. Somerset County Council
Cllr Osman reported he has provided from his Health and Welfare Budget a Defibrillator and training for the Town Hall and some free "Super Saturday" fitness sessions at Wells Leisure centre. He is working with the community on local Highways issues. He spoke very briefly about the progress of the County Council budget process.
ii. Mendip District Council
Cllr Unwin spoke about the "Minus Zero" night shelter for the homeless.
- 13/13C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT** No further Council matters.
- 13/14C DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting will be at **7pm on Thursday 28th February 2013.**