

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 28th FEBRUARY 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; S Davies; H Siggs; J Osman; A Denison; J North; C Briton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White. RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: J Rood; Chaplain: A Wheeler; 1 member of the press; 2 Police Officers; 2 members of the public.

13/15C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr: Osman was delayed and arrived during the meeting.

13/16C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Briton declared a personal interest as employee, in matters relating to Somerset County Council (13/28C).

District Cllrs Siggs, North, Dennison, Unwin, each declared a personal interest as members, in matters relating to Mendip District Council (13/27C).

13/17C MINUTES of the meeting of the City Council held on 24th January 2013 were proposed, seconded accepted and signed.

13/18C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr Hudsmith spoke:

- i. objecting to the appearance of the new deck on Whiting Way car park.
- ii. Complaining about the neglected appearance of the Nutricia site.

13/19C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PC Pearson introduced the new PCSO on the Beat Team. He reported and answered questions from Councillors:

- i. a spate of vehicle break-ins has stopped following an arrest.
- ii. S59 notices issued to moped riders at Dulcote
- iii. "Spotted Wells" (Cllr Davies) no specific complaints received but the situation is being monitored.
- iv. Graffiti reported at the last meeting (Cllr Wilson)- an arrest has been made and the problem appears to have stopped.
- v. Parking issues at Wookey Hole Road (Cllr Siggs), lower High Street (Cllr Kennedy), Jocelyn Drive (Cllr Gibson), will be looked into.
- vi. Speeding past Fountain Inn into St Thomas Street (Cllr Robbins)- the Speed Detection Van will be deployed (has been used at Tor Street).

13/20C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

i. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 10th April, Councillors are asked to attend in support of the Mayor.

The Police and Crime Commissioner is not available on that date but will attend Council when a suitable date can be arranged.

ii. The Mayor reported on recent and forthcoming engagements.

Civic Events:

The Legal Service Sunday 17th March. Councillors were reminded that confirmation of definite attendance is essential.

The Mayor's Civic Service Sunday 28th April. Confirmation of attendance as soon as possible would be very helpful.

Saturday 9th March. The Mayor's final charity fund raising event – The Wells City Band Concert; tickets are on sale from the Town Hall office.

- 13/21C NOMINATION OF MAYOR FOR ELECTION AT MAYOR MAKING (18th May)**
The Mayor called for nominations: Cllr Briton nominated Cllr Butt Philip, seconded by Cllr Wilson. There were no other nominations, a vote was taken and all were in favour so Cllr Butt Philip was unanimously chosen as the next Mayor Elect. Cllr Butt Philip spoke a few words, saying he was honoured to be selected.
- 13/22C NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR ELECTION AT MAYOR MAKING (18th May)**
The Mayor called for nominations: Cllr Kennedy nominated Cllr Briton, seconded by Cllr. Robbins. There were no other nominations, a vote was taken and all were in favour so Cllr Briton was unanimously chosen as the next Deputy Mayor Elect. Cllr Briton said a few words of thanks, expressing the privilege he felt.
- 13/23C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 7th and 21st February 2013. The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.
- 13/24C MINUTES OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2013. The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.
- 13/25C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2013 and approve recommendations.
Amendments were noted: Cllr Wilson had been present at the meeting; Cllr Unwin said he had sent apologies.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted and recommendations were approved.
- 13/26C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2013.
The Chairman answered questions; it was agreed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee could be asked to consider the matter of how to provide the best reception services to the public.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.
- 13/27C ITEM FROM COUNCILLOR BRITON:**
Wells Recreation Ground Trust – Future Management and Responsibility.
The Mayor outlined the legal framework of the Trust; only members of the District Council can be on the Board of Trustees.
Cllr Briton wishes to explore how Wells City Council can be involved in the forthcoming appraisal and what role it can play in the new Board of Trustees; he thanked Cllr Siggs for answering his recent enquiries.
Cllr Siggs welcomed Cllr Briton's interest; he hopes it will be possible to involve non-voting members on the Board. The Board is aware that the City Council has looked into taking on a role in managing the Recreation Ground in recent years but has been deterred mainly on grounds of cost.
(Cllr Osman arrived)

13/28C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Town Twinning Association (Cllr Butt Philip)

There will be a group visiting from Bad Durkheim in May. As approved in the Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes, the Council will host a 30th Anniversary dinner. It was agreed that the Mayor will send an invitation to the Burgermeister immediately, as time is short.

ii. PACT (Cllr Davies)

The following matters were raised at the recent PACT meeting, the Police are aware and action is being taken:

- parking problems at Wookey Hole Road
- speeding in Tor Street (SID has been deployed)
- parking on verges at Abbeyside Home in New Street

iii. Somerset County Council

Cllr Osman gave his apologies for arriving late. He reported on the recent Budget process at SCC. He answered questions regarding the Brewhouse Theatre, explaining that the situation is rather complex and assuring Councillors that everything possible is being done to assist.

iv. Mendip District Council

Cllr Siggs reported on the recently concluded Budget at MDC.

13/29C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

No further matters.

13/30C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at **7pm on Thursday 28th March 2013**