

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 25th APRIL 2013, 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon (The Mayor); C Price; A Denison; T Robbins; D Anderson; A Gibson; H Siggs; J North; C Briton; J Parkes.

IN Town Clerk: F White.

ATTENDANCE: RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: J Rood; Chaplain: A Wheeler.
1 member of the press; 3 members of the public. 1 Police Officer.

Before the start of the meeting the Chaplain said prayers and thanked the Mayor for the honour of being Chaplain during the year.

The Mayor thanked the Council for their kindness to her as Chairman.

13/45C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: T Butt Philip (Deputy Mayor); S Davies; N Kennedy; D Unwin. G Wilson; J Osman.

13/46C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Briton declared a personal interest as an employee, in any matters relating to Somerset County Council.

13/47C i. **MINUTES of the meeting of the CITY COUNCIL held on 28th March 2013** were proposed, seconded, approved and signed by the Mayor.

ii. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th April 2013 were received and approved.

The Mayor thanked the Chairmen of the Committees and everyone who had attended; it had been a lively and interesting meeting.

13/48C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1. Mr McKenzie thanked the City Council for enabling a visit for the Neighbourhood Watch team to the CCTV centre. The experience had been most useful. He urged everyone to report all crimes however small as they could be part of a pattern and perpetrators may be identified by CCTV. Cllr Wilson will be speaking at 3pm on 14th May at the Connect Centre, on his work as a Bristol Magistrate.

2. Mr Hudsmith spoke about the election of Cllr Brandon sixteen years ago; he congratulated her on her second term of office as Mayor, for the courteous and efficient way she has led the Council for the past year.

He spoke about the continuing problem of the cobblestones in the Market Place and urged the City Centre Management Committee to ask Somerset County Council to make the necessary repairs.

He asked for an up-date on Moat Walk:

Cllr North replied with a report from Mendip District Council to the effect that they believe they have done more than the agreed amount of grass cutting and had painted the benches every alternate year. The stream bank will be cleared shortly and they have arranged for the Church Commissioners to replace the railings.

The Town Clerk reported from a site meeting with the agent for the Church Commissioners:

-All the land at Moat Walk, outside the Bishops Palace walls, belongs to the Church Commissioners.

-The maintenance contract is currently with MDC but the Commissioners

would be happy to transfer it to the City Council if all parties are in agreement.

-The railings are not included in the contract; the Commissioners will replace the railings when the stream bank has been cleared as agreed with MDC.

-Talks are now in progress between the three parties involved.

13/49C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PC Strong gave apologies from Sgt Muers; he explained that he is currently covering the Wells Beat as well as Street, PC Pearson is covering at Frome. He is managing the four Wells PCSO's, usually via radio. He reported on recent crimes and arrests in Wells.

The Chairman of the Wells in Bloom Committee thanked the Police for dealing with vandalism to planting; a letter of apology was received from the perpetrator; CCTV was used in the identification of this person.

13/50C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

i. Re-Opening of the Skate Park: 11am Saturday 27th April.

ii. Civic Service: 3pm Sunday 28th April.

Arrangements were reported and approved.

13/51C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2013 and approve recommendations:

The Chairman drew members attention to Minute 13/39F Moat Walk, reported at 13/48C 2.

Cllr Siggs asked that the minutes be amended to record that the Court Room Working Group were thanked for their work.

The Chairman answered questions about the timescale for the Court Room development: preparatory work will start next week and the necessary permissions are to be placed; work will progress through the summer to fit around existing bookings in the Town Hall.

The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.

13/52C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 4th April and 18th April 2013:

A query was raised regarding permissions on the former Nutricia site; Cllr North undertook to investigate the situation.

The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.

13/53C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2013:

The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.

Ref. 13/14CC: Cllr Robbins, as representative to the Carnival Committee, apologised that he had been unable to attend the meeting but there was nothing specific to report. The Carnival was on the agenda merely to be included in the usual annual list of forthcoming city centre events.

13/54C MINUTES OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2013:

The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.

The Mayor particularly thanked the Chairman for taking on the role so ably this year.

13/55C

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Wells Recreation Ground and Bishops Barn Trust

Cllr North reported from the first meeting of the new Trust Board. Members of the public had been present, as well as Cllr Briton. The appointed architects will be carrying out a 16 week public consultation and will speak at a City Council meeting.

The City Council was thanked for contributing some grant funding to the process.

ii. Sports Council

Cllr Price reported his disappointment at the lack of response from MDC regarding the request for a longer lease on the sports ground.

Cllr Price has decided not to stand as Chairman nor as Council representative from May this year.

iii. Almshouses

Cllr Parkes reported the quinquennial inspection has just been completed; he will bring a report to the next meeting.

13/56C

ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

i. Cllr Gibson reported she attended the In Touch open day; this was a very worthwhile experience.

ii. A broken bench near the toilets in the Recreation Ground was reported; Cllr North will follow this up.

Cllr Robbins, as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, has worked closely with the Mayor throughout the year; he thanked her for a very successful year. The Mayor thanked all the Councillors, saying it had been an honour and very rewarding.

13/57C

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at **5pm on Saturday 18th May** (Mayor Making) adjourned to **7pm on Thursday 23rd May 2013** (Annual Business meeting).