

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL**  
**CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: C Briton (The Mayor); G Wilson (Deputy Mayor); D Anderson;  
M Brandon; T Butt Philip; S Davis; A Gibson; N Kennedy; J North;  
J Osman; J Parkes; C Price; T Robbins; H Siggs

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F White  
RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: M Goody;  
Chaplain: Preb. A Wheeler  
Avon and Somerset Police.  
Cllr Reeves, St Cuthbert Out Parish Council  
2 members of the Wells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
4 members of the public; 1 member of the press

**15/01C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: D Unwin. Cllr Davies arrived late. Cllr Robbins left early.

**15/02C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012.  
None declared. See 15/07C.

**15/03C MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014** (attached) were proposed, seconded, approved, and signed.

**15/04C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None wishing to speak

**15/05C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE**

PC Darren Pearson gave his report on recent incidents in Wells. The next PACT meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup> February in Wells Town Hall.  
Councillors passed on some positive feedback to the Police.

**15/06C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

i. Mayor's Charity Concert Wells City Band & Glastonbury Male Voice Choir  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
ii. International Womens' Day: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Wells Town Hall  
iii. Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm  
Chairmen are requested to prepare their reports on the work of their committee  
iv. Legal Service: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 11.30am  
v. Future dates to note:  
St Cuthbert's Music Festival service: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 10am  
Remembrance Service, St Cuthbert's church: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 9.45am

**15/07C NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Presentation of draft Plan (attached) for initial responses from Council.  
Cllr Butt Philip introduced the draft Wells Neighbourhood Plan. Members of the Steering Group came forward to answer questions from Councillors and explained points that were raised. They were congratulated on developing the draft Plan and on producing such a professional and well laid out document; they were thanked for all the hard work that had clearly gone into the project.  
(Cllr Davies arrived and apologised for being late; he declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest, as Clerk to St Cuthbert Out Parish Council, in the Neighbourhood Plan)  
After a lengthy discussion session it was proposed, seconded and agreed that

the Planning and Environment Committee be asked to examine the document. It was further agreed that the draft Plan would also be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Cllr Butt Philip sought clarification that the Council was happy for the next round of public consultation to proceed as arranged, on the basis of the current draft document; this was agreed.

**15/08C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (attached)  
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions. He asked members to note 15/07F: the Mayor had met with key representatives to discuss visitor information services.

**15/09C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (attached)  
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

**15/10C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust: Proposal for City Council membership  
Cllr North reported interviews for trustees will take place in March/April. He asked for an indication of whether the City Council would welcome the opportunity, in principle, to have one seat on the Board; the incumbent to serve for the full council term (four years): proposed, seconded and agreed.

ii. Wells Sports Council  
A meeting of the sports clubs with MDC is due to take place; City Council members asked if they could be informed of that meeting.  
(Cllr Robbins apologised and left the meeting)

Somerset County Council

Cllr Osman thanked all who had spoken out at the recent MDC Planning Board meeting.

He went on to speak about the County Council budget and disappointing funding cuts from central government to Somerset.

Cllr Siggs responded robustly to queries about funding for a cycle path.

**15/11C CALENDAR OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2015 (attached)**

To approve provisional calendar of Council meetings June – December 2015:  
Resolved.

**15/12C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

i. National Trust shop

Members expressed concern about the closure of the shop in Wells Market Place, and reflected the strong public feeling this has generated. The Town Clerk was instructed to write to the Director General about the matter; a letter had already been prepared by the City Centre Management Committee.

It was also agreed to write to the staff locally, thanking them for all their support in the community over the years. Cllr Brandon particularly spoke of their tireless work for the Wells in Bloom program.

2. City Map board project

Cllr Butt Philip reported the producer is out around the city at present, the project is on target for the start of the season this year. He thanked Cllr Gibson for all her work on this.

**15/13C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015**