

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.00PM

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

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

15/14C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: J Osman, T Robbins, D Unwin.
Avon and Somerset Police

15/15C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012.
None declared.

15/16C MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29TH JANUARY 2015

were proposed, seconded, approved, and signed.

15/17C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

15/18C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Apologies due to attendance to urgent local business.

15/19C PRESENTATION

Mendip District Council Corporate Services Consultation:
Cllr Siggs presented the Consultation and answered questions.

15/20C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

i. International Womens' Day: Sunday 8th March, Wells Town Hall.
ii. Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 24th March 6.30pm.
iii. Legal Service: Sunday 22nd March 11.30am.
iv. Mayoral Nominations: The Mayor summarised that this being an election year it would be inappropriate to make formal nominations; however, for the purposes of the civic mayoral role members agreed to consider the matter informally, with a view to giving an indication at the next meeting of who they might wish to nominate as Mayor and Deputy Mayor, should they be returned to council in May.

15/21C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2015
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

15/22C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2015
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
15/07Ai: Council approved red robes, as recommended.

15/23C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 22nd January and 5th February 2015: The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

15/24C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2015
The Vice-Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

15/25C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr North summarised the progress made over the last 18 months based on wide public consultation. The proposal that 20% of the new Trust board be City Council (non-district) members has been approved in principle; to serve for four year terms. Enhancement works to the Bishops Barn have been agreed. Extension of the curfew is to be the subject of further consultation.

ii. Wells Sports Council

Cllr price reported: A long-term business plan is being prepared by the fours clubs.

iii. Mendip Urban Forum

Cllr Butt Philip reported: MDC is preparing for the second phase of the Mendip Local Plan; this involves identifying suitable sites for development. MDC wishes to actively engage with the towns and parishes in this process, which will interact with the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Economic Development Officer presented the results of recent work on the Mendip Town Centres Study.

iv. Wells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Mayor reported: The Consultation draft has been before the Finance and General Purposes and the Planning Committees; two further public consultation meetings have taken place and a meeting with MDC Planning Officer.

There were questions about the extent of public consultation and of the responses; also the timescale for the next stages.

v. Somerset County Council / Mendip District Council

Cllr Siggs reported: SCC and MDC have kept council tax at zero increase. The council-sponsored broadband roll-out is progressing and has reached Wells.

The 'Shape Mendip' Hub is now open.

Some speed cameras in the county have been reactivated.

Cllr Siggs thanked all who have participated on this council from all sides; everyone has worked well together for the good of the city.

vi. Wells Almshouses

Cllr Parkes reported: The Almshouses have been working with Mendip Choice-Based Lettings Scheme and are now near to 100% occupancy. The refurbishment project is nearing completion; grant funding is being sought for the next phase.

Contractors are now being charged to park on the road adjacent, this has caused unforeseen problems.

15/26C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Hazardous state of the road surface in the Market Place
- ii. Trip Hazard on High Street pavement
- iii. Report from site meeting with SCC Highways
- iv. A letter was sent to the National Trust following the meeting last month, and a response received from the Director.

15/27C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on **Thursday 26th March 2015**