

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 23RD JULY 2015 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Baker; M Brandon; C Briton; C Cox; A Gibson(Deputy Mayor);
J Ludovino; R MacKenzie; J North; J Osman; C Price;
T Robbins; H Siggs; G Wilson (The Mayor); C Wride

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: M Goody; Chaplain: Canon G Dodds
Invited speakers gave presentations
18 members of the public
1 member of the press

15/79C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: N Kennedy.
Avon & Somerset Police

15/80C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012:
Cllr Siggs declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as Mendip District Councillor responsible for the leisure contract.

15/81C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH JUNE

2015 Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

Matters arising

- i. Minutes of previous meetings attached / to follow.
- ii. Questions relating to the Neighbourhood Plan would be taken from the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 28th May.
- iii. Conflict of dates with Mendip District Council meeting.

15/82C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- i. Ms Brooker spoke on behalf of traders objecting to the proposed TRO for St Cuthbert's St, Priest Row & Portway, (residents parking permits)
The matter will be considered at the Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 30th July.
- ii. Mr Pirrie presented his plans for a Wells Brocante Fair; this was well received.
- iii. Mr Coleman gave his thoughts on Europe and the British Constitution.

15/83C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Apologies and a brief written report were received from PC Darren Pearson.

15/84C PRESENTATIONS

- i. 'Project Mosaic' was presented by Mr Wilson. It was suggested he contact the Town Clerk and RFO if he wished to make a funding request.
- ii. Mr Mills, Fusion Lifestyle presented the plans for Wells Leisure Centre.

15/85C REGISTRAR SERVICE, WELLS TOWN HALL

To receive information from Somerset County Council on long-term plans for Wells Registration Office.

The Senior Manager with responsibility for Registration Services was present to

discuss the briefing paper previously circulated and to answer questions.

The Mayor summarised the Council's conclusions:

- The Councillors are all concerned for Wells
- Council endorse the Town Clerk's comments (e-mail circulated)
- Wells has a large 'hinterland' and is a bus service 'hub'; these are relevant factors and should be taken into consideration
- There are relevant and related facilities available in Wells Town Hall
- The decision has not yet been made

It was agreed that discussions will continue and further options for Wells explored.

The Officer was thanked for coming to speak directly to the City Council.

15/86C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. St Cuthbert's Music Festival Service: Sunday 6th September
- ii. Mayor's Visit to Bad Durkheim (Twin Town): 10th – 14th September
- iii. Remembrance Sunday: 8th November
- iv. Council noted with sadness the death of Mr David Nasmyth.

15/87C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES & CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July (attached)

The Chairman presented the minutes and answered questions. Heritage Open Day will be on Saturday 12th September.

15/88C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd July and 16th July 2015 The Vice-Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

Query regarding 2015/0748 to be referred to the Chairman for response.

15/89C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2015

The Chairman presented the minutes and answered questions.

He reported the annual audit was returned by the external auditor completely clear. The RFO was thanked and unanimously congratulated by the council.

15/90C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2015

The Chairman presented the minutes and answered questions.

15/91C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- I. Wells Recreation Ground Trust
Cllr North gave a brief up-date; work continues on defining the articles of the new Trust; the number of local councillors on the trust could affect the ability to attract grant funding, as this is sometimes one of the criteria.
- II. Wells Sports Council
Cllr Price reported talks about the lease are on-going. A residents' meeting agreed they are happy for the ground to continue in use as a sports ground.
One of the huts was burned down, causing damage to nearby flats, resulting in a costly insurance claim.

15/92C COUNCIL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND CIVIC EVENTS FOR THE YEAR TO MAY 2016 (attached)

The schedule of meetings for September – December 2015 was amended to show the Council meeting 22nd October will start at 7.30pm, then approved.

The Council calendar for January – May 2016 was approved.

15/93C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Ref: 15/16Aiv: It was agreed to write a letter of support for the Somerset and Dorset Railway Society.
- ii. The Mayor invited all present to refreshments in the Parlour following the meeting. He expressed the council's pleasure at the presence of the press representative at the meeting.

15/94C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on **Thursday 24th September 2015**