

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: J Rood; Chaplain: Canon G Dodds; PC Darren Pearson, Avon & Somerset Police; Mrs J Wills, Dementia-Friendly City
No members of the public
1 member of the press

15/95C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs: Cox, Osman.

15/96C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012: None declared. See 15/108Ci.

15/97C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD JULY 2015 Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.
Matter arising
Wells Registration Office. Notification received of SCC Cabinet decision: the service will be transferred to Glastonbury, probably next June; all options offered by the City Council have been refused.
Members expressed their disappointment at the loss of this service to the people of Wells and the surrounding area.

15/98C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
None present

15/99C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE
PC Pearson, Neighbourhood Beat Team Manager, gave an up-date on recent local incidents. He was congratulated on the recent PACT meeting and was thanked for attending the Council meeting.

15/100C PRESENTATION
Mrs Wills spoke about the project 'Making Wells a Dementia-friendly City' and answered questions. Council welcomed this initiative on behalf of the community and invited the group to run awareness sessions for councillors and staff wishing to attend.

15/101C MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN WELLS FOR MID-SOMERSET
Motion proposed by Cllr MacKenzie: This council calls on the NHS to retain the Bridge mental health unit and St Andrew's Ward at Priory Health Park.
A statement from the Somerset NHS Partnership, obtained by Cllr Baker, provided an up-date that there are no plans to close the centre. This news was welcomed by Cllr MacKenzie: motion withdrawn.

15/102C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
i. Remembrance Sunday: 9.45am 8th November 2015 Service at St Cuthbert's church, followed by City Remembrance Parade.

- ii. Civic Calendar amendments: Bishop Bekynton Service Sunday 17th January 2016. Opening of the May Fair, Saturday 7th May 2016: Noted
- iii. Mayor's Charity event: Saturday 21st November 2015 "Call My Wine Bluff!" at Wells Town Hall.
- iv. The Mayor gave a report from his recent Town Twinning visit to Bad Durkheim, Germany.
- v. The Dean of Wells Cathedral will retire in December due to ill health. It was agreed the Mayor will arrange appropriate conveyance of appreciation on behalf of the City and Council.
- vi. Thanks were recorded to Melissa Owen for organising the recent collection at the Town Hall for the refugee appeal. The response from the people of Wells was overwhelming.

15/103C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2015:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

15/104C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 30th July, 13th August, 3rd September and 17th September 2015:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
Cllr North queried the wording of responses to Planning consultations.
After a lengthy debate it was agreed this could be discussed when the Council's Scheme of Delegation is reviewed.

15/105C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2015
and approve recommendations:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

RECOMMENDED:

**To adopt the 'Third-Party Recording of Meetings' Policy
Proposed, seconded and unanimously approved for adoption.**

15/106C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2015
and approve recommendations:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

RECOMMENDED:

**Resolution at 15/32CO arising from Town Clerk's Report
Proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.
Referred to Finance and General Purposes committee for inclusion in the
forthcoming budget process.**

15/107C MINUTES OF THE CITY AND TOURISM FORUM

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2015
and approve recommendations:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

RECOMMENDED:

**To progress the visitor information website project
Proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.
Referred to Finance and General Purposes committee for inclusion in the
forthcoming budget process.**

15/108C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust
Cllr North gave a brief up-date and answered questions
(Cllr Robbins declared a personal interest as a resident of South St)
- ii. PACT
Cllr Gibson reported the recent PACT meeting was lively and well attended. Cllr Osman and PC Pearson were both present and answered questions well. The priorities identified were speeding and parking.
- iii. Heritage Open Day
Cllr Briton reported Heritage Open Day at the Town Hall was well attended and extremely successful, he thanked members for their support on the day. The Council formally thanked Archivist Dr Julia Wood for all the effort she put into preparing this open day.

15/109C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Ludovino drew members' attention to the SCC Notice of Road Closure for New Street 5th – 9th October, and potential disruption to traffic in the city. Cllr Siggs answered questions.
- ii. Cllr Ludovino drew members' attention to the Local Legacy Fund closing date 16th October.

15/110C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 22nd October 2015**