

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY CENTRE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON
THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon (Vice-Chairman); C Cox; A Gibson (Deputy Mayor);
N Kennedy; J Ludovino (Chairman); C Price; G Wilson (The Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
Cllr R MacKenzie

16/01CO APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: T Robbins; C Wride. Cllr Gibson would arrive later.

16/02CO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared

16/03CO MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on **26TH NOVEMBER 2015** were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

16/04CO MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Cllr MacKenzie spoke as matters arose.

16/05CO OPEN SPACES REPORT (attached)

The Open Spaces Officer presented the report and answered questions. Quotes are being obtained for the tree works. Priorities will be the areas near highways; urgent work for this year is the section from Coronation Road to The Lodge. Tree planting will be intended to create a wind-shield in the exposed area of the cemetery extension.

The Committee confirmed they are happy with the current reporting arrangements. The Town Clerk answered questions about the Council's response to the Local Plan consultation; a request has been made for future burial land to be allocated from the area next to the cemetery.
(Cllr Gibson arrived).

16/06CO CITY & TOURISM FORUM

To receive the minutes of the City and Tourism Forum held on 10th February 2016
Cllr Gibson presented the minutes and answered questions.

- i. 16/06CT: £500 for flag etc. for Queen's 90th birthday celebrations: proposed, seconded and approved.
- ii. 16/05CT: Agreed to refer back to the Forum asking for more detail on goals and objectives of the role and a possible list of tasks.
- iii. The Mayor felt that to ask for a Royal visit is totally impractical at this late stage. He advised that a specific event must be identified, at least a year in advance, if such a request were to be made.

16/07CO DOG FOULING BINS

To consider requests for provision of bins.

The Open Spaces Officer presented a summary.

It was agreed to proceed with installing dog fouling bins at the agreed sites, subject to the necessary consents. £550 approved for bins, posts and associated works.

16/08CO MAINTENANCE REPORTS

To report matters for the attention of Somerset County Highways, Mendip District Council, or Wells Open Spaces section: (pot holes, pavements, street lights, litter, street furniture etc.):

- i. Loose paving slab outside Chubb Bullied.
- ii. Subsidence in highway outside former co-op bank.

16/09CO ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Kennedy reported from a site tour with the Open Spaces Officer with The Landscape Group and MDC Officers. This had been most interesting and useful. They were very impressed with the Manager and with the work being done.
- ii. It was agreed to bring quotes for a replacement litter bin to the next meeting.
- iii. Cllr Price: query about a bollard for the cycle path. He will obtain further details.
- iv. Cllr Price, possible Christmas Market: item for next agenda.
MDC Market Manager, and Chairman of Wells Chamber of Commerce to be invited to the meeting to discuss.

16/010CO DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6pm Thursday 17th March 2016

Please see Open Spaces Report February 2016 on next page

Open Spaces Report February 2016

Christmas Lights

All lights and tree's taken down second week in January.

Two retailers claimed cost of electricity.

All completed within budget.

This year we will aim to purchase two more bespoke lights, replace lights in Market Place trees and change the snowflakes on cross street wreaths.

Skateboard Park

No maintenance issues with ramps.

Boundary hedges cut back.

Daily Inspections and rubbish clearing taking place.

Relief Road /Maintenance

Hedges in all locations on the Relief road cut back and trimmed.

Drainage gully grids in High Street / Broad Street / Queen Street /Market Street are being cleared every week.

All street signs in City have been cleaned.

Fire Hydrants

All have been repaired and painted and the old one from St Thomas Street has now been fixed in the museum garden.

Allotments

Since our last meeting we have 3 new allotment holders.

All plots are allocated and rents received.

New Tenancy agreements and rules in line with National guidelines have been issued to all Tenants along with new fees.

New waiting list forms have been produced.

City Council Trees

Request made to F & GP for a budget to allow work to reduce the canopy of the trees in the Cemetery and allotments to prevent storm damage.

The work will be prioritised and will be split over a five year period.

This will also include a tree planting programme in the Cemetery Extension suggested by the Cemetery Manager.