

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM MEETING HELD IN THE EAST ROOM,
WELLS TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT 6.00 PM.

PRESENT: Cllrs: C Cox; A Gibson (Deputy Mayor; Chairman); R MacKenzie;
Dr P Richards, Ms L Mann, Wells Cathedral
Mr G LeRoy, The Bishops Palace
Ms C Winter, Wells Civic Society
Mr M Tobin, Swan Hotel / Visit Somerset
Ms T Chichester, 'B&B' representative

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
Cllr C Briton
Cllr J Reeves, St Cuthbert Out Parish Council
Representatives of Wells October Festivals
Mr D Cooper, Wells Cinema
6 members of the public
1 press representative

16/01CT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs D Swain; J Osman; G Wilson (The Mayor)
Mr A Webb, Wells Museum/Visitor Information
Mr M Johns, Wells Chamber of Commerce
S Cooper, Wells Film Centre

16/02CT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

16/03CT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 11TH NOVEMBER 2015 were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

16/04CT MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr B MacKay asked questions and made allegations about lack of action by the City Council regarding the former TIC and provision of visitor information. He then left the room.
There was a discussion about issues raised.

16/05CT PRESENTATION

The Wells October Festivals: 'City of Culture'. Representatives spoke about the festivals, and the difficulties in putting on these events. They had particular practical concerns with rubbish collections, parking and traffic arrangements. There were also needs for assistance with publicity, branding and marketing. There was a general sharing of information and ideas culminating in a discussion about the need for a town centre manager.
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to put forward a request for the City Council to consider appointing a city centre manager, with the idea that the main commercial partners would contribute joint shares of the cost.

16/06CT HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

i. City centre flags: up-date

The RFO reported on costs and options. It was agreed to request a budget of £500 from the City Centre and Open Spaces Committee, to cover the costs of Union flags and bunting; these can be put up by the City Council Open Spaces Team and will be in place from mid-April to mid-June, covering the period of the celebrations.

It was agreed to ask that the Mayor write to the Queen inviting Her to attend the celebrations in the smallest city in England (Lord Lieutenant to be notified); or one of the Royal family, if she is unable to attend.

(Chris Winter gave her apologies and left the meeting.)

ii. Wells Cinema film festival

Mr Cooper gave a summary of the very exciting plans for the weekend of 21st – 23rd April.

iii. Information from parish of St Cuthbert Out

Cllr Reeves reported on plans to take part in the lighting of beacons at high points in the surrounding area, on 21st April. It was felt this was a good idea but that there was not any obvious way for Wells to be involved; the focus will be on the film festival during the evenings.

iv. Clean for the Queen

The Chairman reported that U3A are intending to take part in this national campaign. The committee welcomed this initiative. MDC will be providing equipment; please contact the Town Clerk if you are aware of any other groups in the City planning to take part.

(Cllrs Cox and Brandon left the meeting.)

16/07CT 2016 EVENTS

20th March: Sport Relief at The Blue School

21st-23rd April: The Queen's 90th birthday

- Film Festival weekend at Wells Cinema and the Bishops Palace

1st-2nd May: May Fair (Wells Lions) Market Place and Cathedral Green t.b.c.

7th May: FunFair, Market Place

8th May: Vintage & Classic Car Rally, Cathedral Green

Wells Brocante Fair, Market Place

19th May: Aled Jones, Wells Cathedral

5th June: Tortoise and Hare, Motorcycle Rally, Market Place

10/ 11/12th June: Bishop's Palace Garden Festival

11th June: Schools Folk Dance Festival

12th June: St Thomas St, Open Gardens

12th June, HM Queen's 90th Birthday Celebratory Service, Wells Cathedral

18th June: 'Music Circus': Cathedral Green to Cedars Green/Cedars Hall

(22nd June: Glastonbury Festival)

6th August: Mendip Way Marathon Run

29th August: Moat Boat Race

October: Festivals

18th November: Wells Carnival and FunFair

16/08CT LOCAL INFORMATION WEBSITE

Funding bid to Mendip Tourism Ltd: up-date.

The Town Clerk reported she would be presenting the City Council funding bid to the Board meeting on Thursday 11th February, as instructed.

There was some discussion around the background to the bid and the future of some proposed options. Members affirmed the need for all groups to cooperate and communicate with each other.

16/09CT ANY OTHER MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

i. Members had noted the touchscreen in the Town Hall Reception area.

ii. Location filming: item for next agenda.

16/10CT DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 6pm Wednesday 13th April 2016