

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL**  
**CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 AT**  
**7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: M Brandon; C Briton; C Cox; A Gibson (Deputy Mayor); N Kennedy;  
J Ludovino; J North; J Osman; C Price; T Robbins; D Swain;  
G Wilson (The Mayor)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F White  
RFO: S Luck  
Mace-Bearer: J Rood  
Chaplain: A Glanville  
Representatives of Post Office Ltd  
9 members of the public  
1 press representative

**16/14C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: R MacKenzie; H Siggs; D Unwin; C Wride  
Cllr Osman apologised as would need to leave early  
Apologies: Mayor's Chaplain Canon G Dodds  
Agenda Item 5: The presentation had been postponed by Mendip District Council until the next City Council meeting, to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**16/15C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

**16/16C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**JANUARY 2016** Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

**16/17C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Speakers on 16/18C and 16/22Cii to be taken as those items arose.

**16/18C POST OFFICE**

A representative spoke on behalf of Post Office Ltd and answered questions. The public consultation has closed; the decision by Post Office Ltd is that the proposed relocation will not take place as it was not in the best interests of customers. The branch will continue to operate as it is at present. The Post Office needs to find a way to make the business more sustainable for the future; solutions will be directed towards the shared aspirations in sustaining the service in the city centre for the people of Wells. Appropriate business discussions will now take place between the relevant stakeholders.

In conclusion the Mayor expressed thanks on behalf of the City and Council to:

- Post Office Representatives attending the meeting
- James Heapey MP
- Wells Journal
- The people of Wells

**16/19C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- i. The Legal Service: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016
- ii. City Council Dinner: 15<sup>th</sup> April

- iii. Mayor's Charity Barn Dance net total raised: £2,448
- iv. Mayor's charities net total for the year to date: £10,976.29
- v. The above includes £300 donation from Millou Ltd following the filming of 'Another Mothers Son' (in addition to £1,200 already given to the City Council for public works in the Market Place).
- vi. 16<sup>th</sup> April: Mayor's Charities Band Concert
- vii. 27<sup>th</sup> April: Annual Parish Meeting of Electors; all Council Committee Chairman are requested by the Mayor to be available to report.

**16/20C NOMINATIONS OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR FOR ELECTION AT MAYOR MAKING, MAY 2016**

Cllr Siggs proposed that Cllr Gibson be nominated as Mayor; seconded by Cllr North and approved by a unanimous vote. There were no further nominations. Cllr Osman proposed that Cllr North be nominated as Deputy Mayor; seconded by Cllr Gibson and approved by a unanimous vote. There were no further nominations.

Cllr Gibson and Cllr North each spoke a few words thanking their fellow Councillors for this expression of support.

(Cllr Osman left the meeting)

**16/21C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES & CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

**16/22C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- i. To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

- ii. To consider whether to move forward with a Housing Needs Survey (subject to grant funding being obtained).

Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group spoke. There was a short discussion.

Proposal (Cllr Kennedy), seconded (Cllr Swain)

**That the City Council move forward with a Housing Needs Survey (subject to grant funding being obtained).**

Vote: 8 in favour 1 against:

**RESOLVED**

**16/23C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

**16/24C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016

With minutes of the City and Tourism Forum sub-committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

**16/25C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

- i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr North: No further matters to report at present.

- ii. Wells Carnival Club Committee

Cllr Brandon has attended her first meeting; she reported this is a very hardworking, dedicated group.

iii. Mendip District Council

Cllr North: Preparations are in hand for organising the Euro-Referendum, this will coincide with the Glastonbury Festival.

iv. Sustainable Wells

Formerly Transition Wells, Cllr Briton reported that with new input from the Food festival, this group is now thriving. It incorporates food, energy and city sustainability, aiming at enabling a 'Sustainable Wells'.

Cllr Briton was asked to arrange for a speaker to attend a City Council meeting.

**16/26C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

No further matters.

**16/27C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will take place at **7.00pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016.**