

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,**  
**WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2016 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs:; C Briton; C Cox; A Gibson (The Mayor); N Kennedy; R MacKenzie;  
J North (Deputy Mayor); J Osman; C Price; T Robbins; H Siggs; D Swain;  
G Wilson; C Wride

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F White  
RFO: S Luck  
Mace-Bearer: J Rood  
1 member of the public. No press representative

**16/79C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: M Brandon; J Ludovino; D Unwin  
Chaplain: A Glanville  
Avon & Somerset Police

**16/80C 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. See 16/89C

Members were reminded to return their up-dated registration of interests forms to the Town Clerk.

**16/81C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> AND 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016**

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

**16/82C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr B MacKay referred to the minutes of the City and Tourism Forum; he spoke about:

- i. Coaches parking in Sadler Street
- ii. Location of the tourist information office (he was advised to direct his questions to the Visitor Information Service)

**16/83C POLICE REPORT**

Unable to attend due to the Glastonbury Festival.  
See 16/89C

**16/84C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported various events attended and forthcoming. Of particular note:

- i. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July Commemorating 100 years since the Battle of the Somme
- ii. Tea in the Mayor's Parlour in celebration of the diverse community in Wells t.b.a.

**16/85C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016, with minutes of the City & Tourism Forum held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016:

The Chairman presented the minutes and answered questions.

Members expressed strong support for the Somerset Schools Country Dancing event. Cllr Siggs was thanked for organising this outstanding event which brings thousands of people to the city every year.

Members commented on the acoustics of the Old Court Room.

Cllr Osman commended the work of the Open Spaces Team.

**16/86C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016:  
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions. He drew members' attention to 16/15S: Use of the Town Hall and equipment, noting health and safety reasons, and the council's insurance requirements.

**16/87C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016:  
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**To adopt the Scheme of Delegation**

Proposed, seconded and approved.

**16/88C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016:  
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions. He drew members' attention to 16/122P: suggested responses to the Public Space Protection Orders consultation.

**16/89C PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS Mendip District Council Consultation:**  
The Mayor opened the discussion with an informal message of response from the local police team.

Members were then each given the opportunity to put their views.

(Cllr Robbins declared a personal interest as a licensee.)

A summary will be drawn up for further consideration at the next Planning Committee meeting, before a final response is submitted to MDC.

**16/90C WELLS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Cllr Briton proposed that four members be appointed to the Wells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Cllrs Briton, Cox, MacKenzie and Swain were appointed.

**16/91C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr North reported the next meeting of the WRGT Committee will take place at Wells Town Hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

It is anticipated that the new play area will be completed in early September.

ii. Wells Sports Council

Cllr Price presented the document stating the combined sports clubs application to MDC for a long-term lease.

iii. Cllr MacKenzie drew members' attention to the MDC presentation on

Delivering Affordable Housing Solutions, to take place at Wells Town Hall on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

iv. Somerset County Council

Cllr Osman spoke about the progress of the devolution bid. He spoke about the improving quality of work in Somerset children's services.

Cllr Kennedy congratulated the county council on the way the sudden loss of a local bus service provider had been dealt with.

v. Mendip District Council

Cllr Siggs spoke about the recent access difficulties for the Glastonbury Festival, all parties had worked together. He spoke of the great benefits the festival brings to the whole county.

**16/92C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

Flag-flying

Cllr Swain referred to recent conversations and uncertainty around the suggestion to fly the rainbow pride flag at the Town Hall. He suggested the Council should clarify its flag-flying policy.

(Cllr Osman left the meeting).

The Mayor took comments from members expressing various points of view on the matter.

There are government guidelines and complex legislation on flag-flying.

The council's policy on flying the city flag is recorded in the Civic Review; council precedent and procedure on other flags could be reviewed and recorded.

(Cllrs Siggs, Kennedy and Robbins left the meeting)

The Deputy Mayor spoke on the interaction of local councils and global tragedies. He felt that the Mayor had led in paying respects in an entirely appropriate way, at the start of this evening's meeting.

In conclusion the Mayor suggested that Cllr Swain consult with members and with the Town Clerk and produce a draft flag-flying policy for council to consider.

**16/93C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will take place at **7.00pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016**