

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 28th JULY 2016 AT 7.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck ; Mace-Bearer: M Goody; Chaplain: A Glanville
PC Pearson, Avon & Somerset Police
Ms H Colman, Community Council for Somerset
No press or public were present

16/94C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: C Cox; J Osman; D Swain; G Wilson; C Wride

16/95C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012:

Cllrs: North, MacKenzie, Siggs and Unwin each declared a personal and prejudicial interest as members, in any matters relating to Mendip District Council; and as trustees in any matter relating to Wells Recreation Ground Trust.

16/96C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD JUNE 2016

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

16/97C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None present.

16/98C POLICE REPORT

PC Pearson reported on recent crime in Wells, and answered questions: There has been an increase in shoplifting and in fuel theft. The Police have had some success from CCTV images and are working with local businesses on preventive measures. A spate of graffiti is being dealt with by the school concerned, the culprits have been identified.

(Cllr Siggs arrived and apologised for being late.)

16/99C PRESENTATION

Somerset Community Council: The agent for Wells and parishes spoke about her work and answered questions. Due to recent funding the project has been expanded throughout Somerset; the role of the agent is to connect vulnerable and excluded people with services that can help them, and to provide them with information. This is a person-centred service, free of charge.

16/100C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. The Mayor reported that the strategy meetings with key stakeholders in tourism in the City are bringing results through the City and Tourism Forum. A project led by the Cathedral and Bishops Palace will engage 'Visit by Coach', funded by stakeholders with support from Mendip Tourism Ltd.
- ii. The Mayor will attend the Patronal Service at St Cuthbert's Church on Sunday 4th September; Councillors are most welcome to accompany her.
- iii. Saturday 10th September: Heritage Open Day, Town Hall & Almshouses & Mayors Charity collection: Grey Dogs Band, Market Place.
- iv. Saturday 22nd October: Quiz Night for Mayor's Charities, Town Hall
- v. Street Trading Policy
MDC has issued their policy consultation, closing date 25th August.

This will be considered at the Planning Committee meeting on 11th August, as there is no other opportunity before the closing date.

MDC has offered to hold a public session; this will take place from 4-7pm at Wells Town Hall on 11th August.

16/101C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2016:

The Mayor presented the minutes and invited questions.

The next meeting will take place at the Museum on 1st September and will open at 5.30pm with an opportunity to view the City Archives.

16/102C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2016

with minutes of the Wells in Bloom meeting held on 30th June 2016

and the City & Tourism Forum held on 13th July 2016:

The Mayor presented the minutes and invited questions.

The dirty and untidy state of the Wells bus station was noted for report to MDC for attention.

16/103C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2016:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

Cllr Mackenzie thanked the Committee for the grant to Wells Neighbourhood Watch, the signs have been ordered.

16/104C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 7th July 2016 and 21st July 2016:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

16/105C 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 Monday 1st August.

He gave some answers and assured members that questions will be answered fully at that meeting.

ii. Wells Sports Council

Cllr Price reported the next meeting had been postponed until September, pending a response from MDC to the bid submitted.

iii. Cllr Siggs reported on the forthcoming road closure at St Thomas St for re-surfacing; Cllr Osman had attended to ensuring that the disruption for residents would be as minimal as possible.

Cllr Siggs spoke about the devolution bid and answered questions on district and county matters.

16/106C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

i. A vacancy has arisen for the council to appoint a trustee for the Wells Almshouses; the person appointed does not necessarily need to be a councillor. Anyone interested is asked to contact the Mayor or the Town Clerk; the Almshouses board of trustees has produced guidance on the requirements of the role.

ii. Cllr North reported the recent planning application from Llewellyns Almshouse was approved by MDC. He thanked Kate Knight, the retiring CEO, on behalf of the City Council, for all the work she has done in this role.

16/107C DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7.00pm on Thursday 22nd September 2016