

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLS TOWN
HALL, AT 6:00PM ON THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT: Cllrs: C Briton (Chairman); C Cox; A Gibson (Mayor); T Robbins; H Siggs;
C Wride.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
Archivist: Dr J Wood
RFO: S Luck
Mr D Walker, Hon. Curator, Wells & Mendip Museum
Cllrs: Kennedy; Swain.

17/01A APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: C Price; D Unwin

17/02A DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012.

None declared.

17/03A MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Thursday 17TH NOVEMBER 2016

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

17/04A MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None present.

17/05A THE CITY OF WELLS PROJECT AT WELLS & MENDIP MUSEUM (see attached)

The Hon. Curator spoke about the project and answered questions.

17/06A REPORT FROM THE ARCHIVIST

To receive the Archivist's Report to the Committee: **Noted.**

17/07A CONSERVATION OF PAINTINGS

Ref: 16/144C. The committee discussed the options to take the project forward.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed:

- i. To use the prioritisation list already provided.
- ii. To seek two further quotes for the work to the first five of these.

17/08A CIVIC ROBES

One of the black robes is beyond repair; it has been cleaned by Mr Borastero as a donation to the Council; it was agreed this robe will be stored in the Archives.

After consideration, it was proposed, seconded and agreed to purchase a new black robe of the matching style and weight to those most recently acquired.

17/09A PUBLICITY FOR THE BISHOP BEKYNTON COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The water supply was given to the people and this ceremony is on behalf of the community. The committee were in agreement that it would be a good idea to provide public information in the press and by notice on the day, so that people would know what is happening. Also to revive the custom of the Mayor responding on behalf of the people, if the Cathedral and Dean are in agreement of the idea.

Words and suggestions to be provided to the Town Clerk by senior Councillors and communication with the Dean to be initialised by Cllr Siggs.

17/10A ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Somerset Heritage Centre Historic Maps Exhibition at Wells Town Hall Wednesday 28th June.
- ii. Fire Fighting Exhibition, Wells Museum, August and September.
- iii. Heritage Open Day, Wells Town Hall Saturday. 9th September.
- iv. Wells Journal Archives have been taken to Watford by the Express group.

17/11A DATE OF NEXT MEETING 6pm Thursday 29th June 2017

Report from the Archivist

“Know Your Place – West of England” Touring Exhibition and Roadshow

This exhibition, to which the Archivist has contributed material from Wells City Archives, will be on display at the Bishop’s Place from 2nd March to 2nd April. On 8th April there will be a roadshow at the Palace from 1.00 to 4.00, to which people will be invited to bring their memories and old photos of Wells to be mapped onto the website. The Archivist will be taking part in the roadshow.

“Crime and Punishment in Victorian Wells” exhibition

This exhibition is based on the Wells Petty Sessions holdings in the City Archives, and will run at Wells Museum from Thursday 30th March to Wednesday 26th April. It is based on data brought to light by volunteers at the monthly Archives Box-Listing Sessions run by the Archivist at the Museum.

Joint Exhibition

Much work is going into preparation for the joint exhibition later this year between Wells City Archives, Wells & Mendip Museum and the Bishop’s Palace. The exhibition will run at the Bishop’s Palace from 6th May to 31st October 2017. The Chair of the Archives Committee and the Archivist have approved the Archives items for inclusion; these will be the King John Charter, the Bekynton Charter and the Queen Elizabeth I Charter of Incorporation. A full-size reproduction of the 1860 Sewage Plan of Wells (in two parts) will also be on display.

City of Wells Galleries

The City Archives will be playing an important part in the establishment of the new galleries at the Museum, which will tell the story of the history of Wells. The Archivist has a significant role in the development of the project.

Online Archives databases

A software problem has brought about a delay in the launch of the Archives databases which will be made available through the Museum’s website. However, good progress is being made with a new solution, and it is hoped that the databases will go live soon. They will be freely accessible to a national and international audience.

Conservation and repair

Somerset Heritage Trust’s Head of Conservation, Mervyn Richens, is adding archival polyester support strips and a polyester cover to the King John Charter, which is the only charter currently without such provision.

City Council website

A historical addition to the website is currently being prepared by a volunteer, who is typing in a list of past Mayors of Wells to add to those already listed on the website.

Talks

The Archivist will be giving talks on the Archives to three local history groups during February and March.

Dr Julia Wood
07.02.2017