

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: R MacKenzie; J North (Mayor); J Osman; D Swain (Chairman);
Mr M Tobin (Vice-Chairman), Swan Hotel / Visit Somerset
Ms T Chichester, 'B&B' representative
Mr D Cooper, Wells Film Centre
Mr A Fawcett, Wells Museum/Visitor Information Service
Ms R Martin, The Bishop's Palace
Mr R Powell, Wells Chamber of Commerce
Mr A Webb, Wells Museum/Visitor Information
Ms C Winter, Wells Civic Society

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
Mrs G North (Mayoress)
Ms A Haworth, CEO, City of Wells Almshouses

17/52CT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

C Wride (Deputy Mayor)
Ms L Mann, Wells Cathedral
Cllr Osman would arrive later

17/53CT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J North (The Mayor) declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as member, in any matter relating to Mendip District Council.

17/54CT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on **20th July 2017** were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

17/55CT MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ms Haworth CEO introduced herself and spoke about the City of Wells Almshouses. Members were asked to note that whilst the site is a beautiful and historic place to visit, it is peoples' private residential homes.

17/56CT WELLS MUSEUM VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICE Items from Mr Webb:

i. Mendip Tourism Ltd, draft Destination Management Strategy for Mendip
The document was begun as part of the City of Culture bid process, it is a working draft. MDC (Cllr Killen) and Visit Somerset (John Turner) have been involved, they asked for the five towns to be informed; feedback is invited.
The Mayor suggested that a developed version would need to go through the committee process and to full Council at Wells City Council, also to Mendip District Council for adoption.

ii. City of Culture 2021 DCMS feedback

The City of Culture Bid Panel gave a detailed response with very positive feedback to the Wells team. They were impressed with the ambition of the small cities. The bids from the smaller cities did not fit the criteria and could not compete with major post-industrial cities in the context of this competition. The Ministry will be holding a meeting with the smaller-city teams to consider the issues they all raised.

17/57CT PARKING AND SIGNAGE

Chamber of Commerce progress report.

Michael Johns has worked with SCC Highways to produce a report identifying signs to car parks at all entry points into the city. A schedule has been drawn up to introduce signage to long- or short-stay car parking; this is being progressed by SCC Highways with the City Council Planning Committee. It is hoped that the County Councillor will be able to assist in identifying funding for the project.

Efforts have also been made by the Mayor, and others, to have a dialogue with MDC about car parks, particularly to identify figures showing the usage rates.

Questions were asked about the recent use of Palace Fields for car parking. Very little was known about this situation; it appears to be a private matter between the owners and MDC.

17/58CT REPORTS

i. Visit by Coach project

The aim at present is to improve the arrival experience at the bus station both for passengers and for coach drivers.

The 'meet and greet' scheme has started, run by volunteers; vouchers etc. are handed out.

The Town Clerk has met with the bus company and with MDC; various projects are in progress to bring enhancements to the ticket office and waiting areas.

There was once again a discussion about the coach point in Sadler Street, with varied opinions expressed. The Chairman asked that everyone send their suggestions in bullet points to the Town Clerk. These would be collated and brought to the next meeting, so that a consensus of options can be sent to SCC Highways.

ii. Wells Christmas Market 2017

Nothing further to report.

iii. Websites

www.wellssomerset.com booking system for small B&Bs is operating.

www.visitwellssomerset.co.uk ready to start populating the businesses section; contact Sue on reception@wells.gov.uk

17/59CT 2017 EVENTS

See list attached.

17/60CT ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

i. Saturday 28th October: Annual British Legion Poppy Concert at Wells Town Hall.

ii. International Tour operators are being hosted in Wells today and tomorrow, as part of the annual event presented by Visit Somerset.

17/61CT DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING 6pm on Thursday 2nd November 2017

PUBLIC EVENTS / ROAD CLOSURES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE CITY OF WELLS 2017

Note: This listing attempts to identify major events likely to cause significant additional traffic or other disruption. Notifications of any other such events will be gratefully received.

2017

Sat 9th - Sun 10th September	Heritage Open Days
Sunday 10th September	Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk
Saturday 16th September	Classic Motorbikes Rally, Cathedral Green
Saturday 16th September parking)	Night film shoot, Cathedral (+ Market Place
Saturday 23rd September	Hash House Harriers, Cathedral Green
Sunday 8th October	Wells Food Festival, City centre
Fri 13th - Sat 21st October	Wells Festival of Literature, Bishops Palace
Saturday 21st October	Mendip YMCA 125years, Wells Cathedral
Friday 17th November	Carnival & Fun Fair, Wells
Friday 24th November	Film shoot, Market Place and Vicars Close
Mon 20th-Tues 21st November	Christmas lights go up
Sunday 3rd December	Reindeer Parade
Wed 20th - Sat 23rd December	Seasonal Market

2018

Mon 8th-Tues 9th January	Christmas Lights come down
27, 28, 29th April 2018	Wells Film Festival
Saturday 28th April 2018	WI Banner Parade, Wells High St
Saturday 12th May 2018	Somerset Day
Saturday 16th June 2018	Somerset Schools Folk Dance Festival
Tuesday 6th November 2018	WWI commemoration Cathedral (provisional) pm
Sunday 11th November 2018	6am the lone piper, Wells Cathedral 11am Remembrance Services