

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 23RD MARCH 2017 AT 7.00PM

Before the start of the meeting the Mayor's Chaplain said prayers and held a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the Westminster attack.

PRESENT: Cllrs: R Ayres; M Brandon; A Gibson (The Mayor);
N Kennedy; R MacKenzie; J North (Deputy Mayor); J Osman;
C Price; T Robbins; D Swain; G Wilson; C Wride

IN ATTENDANCE: RFO: S Luck ;
Mace-Bearer: J Rood; Chaplain: A Glanville
Abbeyfield Homes representatives

17/32C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs: C Briton; C Cox; H Siggs; D Unwin
Town Clerk: F White

17/33C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012: None declared.

17/34C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd February 2017 Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Mayor.
Matter Arising
Cllr North reported no improvement on the parking in Priory Road and requested a letter be sent to Somerset Highways.

17/35C POLICE REPORT
No one available to give report.

17/36C PRESENTATION
Representatives from Abbeyfield Homes gave a presentation and answered questions from members.

17/37C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
None present.

17/38C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor welcomed and congratulated Cllr Ayres as a new member.
The Mayors Charity Concert: Saturday 8th April, Wells Town Hall
The Mayor's Civic Service: Sunday 23rd April, 3.00pm, St Cuthbert's Church
Councillors' Dinner: Saturday 29th April, The Swan Hotel
Mayor's Charity Film Event Sunday 30th April, Wells Film Centre

17/39C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2017
The Chairman presented the minutes.

17/40C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd March 2017 and 16th March 2017.
The Chairman presented minutes and invited questions.

Cllr Kennedy highlighted the pre planning application for a mobile phone mast on Strawberry Way. Cllr Mackenzie and Cllr Osman spoke about the proposed phone mast in the quarry location.
It was agreed Cllr Ayres would replace Cllr Gibson as a member of the committee.

17/41C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2017 and approve recommendations.

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

Cllr Price gave a brief update on the Bus 67 route.

ANNUAL REVIEWS

- i. Financial & General Risk Assessments
- ii. Council Properties Asset Register

The recommended documents were proposed, seconded and adopted.

17/42C MINUTES OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM

To note minutes of meetings of the City and Tourism Forum held on 8th March 2017. Minutes for 22nd March 2017 (to follow)

The Chairman presented the minutes and updated members on the City of Culture bid.

17/43C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Robbins reported on the last meeting where Cllr Parham was made the new Chairman and Cllr Taylor vice-chair. A Project Manager for the Bishop's Barn has been appointed to work on funding opportunities. Work was on-going on the play area; this would be reopened when all work was completed.

Cllr Osman spoke of his disappointment that the Chairman was not a Wells Councillor.

Cllr North reported the unveiling of a Blue Plaque in the Recreation Ground.

ii. MDC Report

Cllr MacKenzie reported on the work and responsibilities of the Drainage Board

17/44C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

i. Cllr Robbins

a) Raised concerns about an item in the Wells Journal on the Visit by Coach project.

b) Reported the Town Clerk was unwell and thanked the RFO for clerking the meeting.

c) He proposed and it was agreed that the roles and management of the Civic Staff be on the next F & GP agenda.

ii. The Mayor reported on a visit to the Short Mat Bowls Club and how they had expressed their thanks to the Council for a Community Grant and challenged them to a game on their new mat.

17/45C ANNUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

To confirm arrangements for Mayor Making on Saturday 20th May 2017

Start time: 4pm

Cllr Kennedy expressed his disappointment at the change of time but it was proposed, seconded and agreed by members.

17/46C DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7.00pm Thursday 27th April 2017