

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY CENTRE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 7TH JUNE 2018 AT 2017 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: A Gibson, R Greenwell, R MacKenzie,
J Osman (Deputy Mayor)(in the Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
County Cllr. T Munt

18/24CO APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs M Brandon; C Price, D Swain (Chairman)

18/25CO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
Cllrs. MacKenzie and Osman each declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as members, in any matter relating to Mendip District Council.

18/26CO ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN
Cllr. C Price was proposed, seconded and elected as Vice-Chairman.

18/27CO MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Minutes of the City Centre & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 5th April 2018 were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

18/28CO MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
None wishing to speak.

18/29CO MINUTES OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM
To receive the minutes of the City and Tourism Forum meeting held on 3rd May 2018: Noted.

18/30CO WELLS CHARTER FAIRS up-date
The Town Clerk reported all matters had been resolved and a new five-year licence agreement with Mendip District Council was signed just before the start of the May Charter Fair.
The annual contract with the Rogers Family as operators had been renewed. The Town Clerk, with the Rogers and Richard green, Honorary Member of the National Showman's Guild, will attend a meeting of the MDC Safety Advisory Group later this month.

18/31CO OPEN SPACES OFFICER'S REPORT

i. Cemetery

The Grade 1 listed gates have been refurbished and are back in place. Some additional work is required as the fixing plates have deteriorated in the wet, the contingency in the planned budget will cover this.

The tree surgeon has reviewed the Tree Survey for this year and identified the necessary works.

- The last quarter has been a busy time with burials.
Hedging of the cemetery extension field is completed.
- ii. Highways functions
The five-year agreement with SCC Highways has been revised and renewed: verge cutting, Lovers Walk and various small paths and minor works.
MDC have put down rat-traps again in the areas near the Skate Park.
 - iii. Wells in Bloom
The Council workforce is becoming gradually more involved each year.
Repairs to the High Street posts have been done and the posts are back in.
 - iv. Allotments
All sites are inspected regularly by the Open Spaces Manager; following the last inspection some tenancies have been terminated and plots re-let.
 - v. Speed Indicator Devices
The equipment has been purchased and is being tried out. A schedule will be established when sites have been tested for effectiveness.
 - vi. Red phone box
Awaiting disconnection of mains power supply.
 - vii. Bus station
Planters have been constructed and planted; benches have been installed.
There has been a series of minor vandalism to the locking system at the toilet block. This has been reported to the Police as there is a potential hazard to the public, there could be a serious risk if someone became locked in.

Members were invited to arrange a visit to the Cemetery at their own convenience, in order to familiarise themselves with the work of the Open Spaces team.

18/32CO

MAINTENANCE REPORTS

The following matters were raised for reporting to the relevant authority:

- i. Banner not properly secured to railings at the bus station
- ii. Crash barriers at the bus station are damaged, creating a hazard, ineffective, unsightly, obscuring other signage.
- iii. Rats at Lovers Walk / footbridge / Cathedral School property.
- iv. Wobbly paving slabs outside Kudos, Priory Road.
- v. Pedestrian entrance to Priory Road car park from Market Street has not been rectified during the recent re-surfacing; kerb causes a hazard to wheeled disabled / buggies entering the railed area from the road.
- vi. Members noted the recent resurfacing of Market Street and thank SCC Highways for this work.

- vii. The Open Spaces Officer reported he has made contact with the relevant officer at MDC and the street nameplate at Market Street / Queen Street is being replaced.

County Councillor Munt reported she made a recent 'walk round' of the area with the Highways Engineer, noting these and other defects for rectification.

18/33CO ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr. MacKenzie reported from the PACT meeting there had been requests for the 20mph limits to be extended.
- ii. Bins at Town Hall Buildings (Minute Ref. 18/19COvi.)
The Town Clerk reported the conclusion of correspondence and meetings with MDC and IDVerde.
MDC have made two proposals, in summary:
 - relocating the bins in the Union Street car park, behind the public toilets, with a screen in place to hide the bins from the nearby residents
 - replace the market bins, with a cage for use of waste disposal during the market. This cage would be placed near the Crown at the start of the market, and removed at the end of the market

The Committee endorsed the following comments in response:

- a. This appears acceptable with the conditions that the bins at Union Street are kept closed and refuse is never placed outside them. It is noted that this site is close to residential properties and so could cause concern.
- b. It is for MDC to decide where and how to collect the rubbish within the market; the City Council would have no objection to a cage providing that it does not interfere with or obstruct any of the businesses around the square.

18/34CO DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6pm Thursday 4th October 2018