

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,**  
**WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: : R Ayres, C Cox; A Gibson; R Greenwell; N Kennedy;  
R MacKenzie; J North (Mayor); J Osman; C Price; T Robbins; H Siggs;  
D Swain; D Unwin; G Wilson; C Wride (Deputy Mayor)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F White  
RFO: S Luck; Mace Bearer: M Goody  
Somerset County Cllr. T Munt  
No public; 1 member of the press

**18/01C CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced the standard emergency evacuation procedures. He requested that mobile phones and other devices be set on silent or turned off. Anyone intending to record any part of the meeting was asked to declare this.

**18/02C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. M Brandon.  
Mayor's Chaplain: A Glanvile  
Avon and Somerset Police

**18/03C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012: None received.

**18/04C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON**

**21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017:** Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

**18/05C POLICE REPORT**

To receive a report from Avon and Somerset Police:  
The Town Clerk read a report received from the local Beat Team. Members were concerned about the high number of incidents and asked for an action report at the next meeting.  
The Mayor reported the Police have met with MDC and Waitrose management; measures are being put in place to control anti-social behaviour in Waitrose carpark.

**18/06C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** None present.

**18/07C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- i. The Mayor thanked everyone for their support during December events & at the Bishop Bekynton Commemoration
- ii. The Mayor announced his forthcoming Charity events
- iii. The Mayor asked that Committee Chairmen prepare a three-minute report for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March.
- iv. Informal visit from the twin-town of Fontanellato the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> April

**18/08C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018:  
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.  
**RECOMMENDED: To adopt the Reserves Policy and Investments Strategy**  
Proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

**18/09C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017, 4<sup>th</sup> January and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018:

The Chairman presented the minutes and answered questions. She drew members' attention to the Mendip Local Plan consultation (closing date 12<sup>th</sup> February) and reported on key matters for response. She particularly mentioned car parking and protection of open green spaces. All members are urged to submit their comments to the Chairman or the Town Clerk, for collation into the final response to be considered at the next meeting of the Planning Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> February. The Mayor thanked the Chairman and congratulated her on the way she had chaired the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**18/10C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018:

The Chairman presented the minutes and answered questions. He drew members' attention to 18/07S recommendations and conclusions. There was a short discussion. Cllr Robbins thanked the Chairman, RFO and Town Clerk, for their hard work; it was important to reach the right result, both for individuals and because it is public money.

**18/11C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

i. Somerset County Council

Cllr Munt gave a very brief report as she has been away. Issues raised have been parking and litter. She answered questions about Ash Lane; SCC Highways are looking into the situation.

ii. Mendip District Council

Cllr Siggs noted reports of problems with the MDC website and will look into this. He reported on the current budget process; the district continues to face the challenge of government cuts. MDC is perceived as levying the Council Tax, whereas theirs is only part of the total charged to the householder. Some town councils seeking excessive increases are pushing the government towards capping the parishes; Wells is not one of these.

iii. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Wride reported from the recent community open day. The Trust has been successful in receiving a resilience heritage fund grant; this means they have an initial sum with which to do the detailed work needed to prepare a full Lottery Heritage Grant application.

Cllr Robbins reported the Mosaic Project is being set up as a community interest company, with separate bank account.

Cllr Cox asked questions raised by residents about works to trees at the Recreation Ground; there are concerns about possible damage due to trees close to neighbouring properties.

iv. Fairtrade

Cllr MacKenzie reported on FairTrade fortnight. He also spoke about the Foodbank, now operating from Keward Mill trading estate, and about the Connect Centre work with rough sleepers.

**18/12C COUNCIL DIARY**

To receive the calendar meetings and civic events for the year 2018: adopted.

**18/13C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Gibson thanked the open spaces team, led by Mark Culliford, Open Spaces Manager, for taking down the Christmas lights. She thanked Jeremy Brown of Jenbee, for his help, also for responding immediately when one of the lights came loose in the storms.

**18/14C DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next being will be held at **7.00pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018**