

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: : R Ayres, M Brandon; 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: J Rood
Mayor's Chaplain: A Glanville
Somerset County Cllr. T Munt
15 members of the public

18/15C 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.

18/16C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

18/17C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Members were provided with declaration forms and reminded to keep their declarations of interests up to date.

**18/18C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
25TH JANUARY 2018:**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

18/19C POLICE REPORT

To receive a report from Avon and Somerset Police: PCSO Bev Searle gave the monthly crime report for Wells and answered questions.

The Mayor requested that the Police write to Superdrug head office to ensure they are aware there have been several raids on the Wells shop.

There were questions about road safety measures for North Road / College Road.

18/20C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Mayor made it clear that this is the opportunity for members of the public to speak, and invited them to do so.

Ms M Milnes spoke about 18/24C Standing Order 3ri; a copy of her notes is available.

18/21C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Annual Parish Meeting: 6pm Wednesday 14th March
- ii. The Legal Service: 11.30am Sunday 18th March
- iii. Council Civic Dinner Friday: 13th April
- iv. The Mayor's Charity events

18/22C NOMINATIONS OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

To make nominations in preparation for election at Mayor Making in May 2018:

Mayor nomination

Cllr Wride was proposed by Cllr Robbins, seconded by Cllr Unwin; there were no other nominations. A show of hands showed unanimous support for the nomination.

Cllr Wride thanked members for their support.

Cllr Siggs read from the Wells City Council Civic Review, page 9: 'Selection of Candidate for the Mayoralty' and spoke about the reasons behind the processes described.

Deputy Mayor nomination

Cllr Siggs nominated Cllr Osman as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Robbins.

Cllr Ayres proposed Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Price.

A show of hands was held and Cllr Osman was selected by majority vote.

18/23C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2018:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

18/24C STANDING ORDERS

Proposed (Cllr Cox): To revoke Standing Order 3ri.

The Mayor introduced the item and drew members' attention to Standing Order 25b; the proposal should be put in writing by six members. As the Finance and General Purposes Committee had asked Cllr Cox to bring the matter to full Council, and in view of the level of public interest, he would allow her to present the item and invite all Councillors to comment.

Cllr Cox summarised the Standing Order 3ri and the reasons for the motion; transparency and accountability. She referred to the 'Good Councillor Guide' and to the training she had been given on arriving as a new Councillor; there should be voting by a show of hands on every occasion.

The Mayor thanked her for bringing this to the Council. He then invited members to comment and each spoke in turn, expressing a range of experience, opinions and feelings.

In conclusion the Mayor explained that the matter would be referred back to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to examine and return to full Council with an appropriate recommendation after due consideration. He thanked everyone for holding a full debate and thanked the public for their contributions.

18/25C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 1st February and 15th February 2018:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

The Chairman reported that the Council's response to the Mendip Local Plan Part II consultation had been submitted, and thanked the Town Clerk for all her work in collating and writing up the response document; Cllr Wilson endorsed these comments.

The Chairman reported from the MDC Planning Board on 21st February, planning application for land at Wookey Hole Road was passed after a robust discussion and with suggestions for S106 agreements.

18/26C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2018, with minutes of the Tourism Forum meeting on 4th January 2018:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

18/27C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES & CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2018:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

The Chairman drew members' attention to 18/09A 'future plans and developments', being attributed to the committee; other idea and contributions are welcome.

18/28C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllrs Robbins and Wride reported they had attended a governance session along with MDC members from Wells; real progress is being made.

ii. MDC

Cllr Siggs said the WRGT project will be a 4-5 year project.

The full Council meeting on Monday set the Budget and Council Tax.

It also heard from the Somerset Rivers Authority specifically about work done in Mendip District.

Cllrs Osman and MacKenzie also commented on the SRA.

iii. SCC

Cllr Munt gave her monthly report of casework, surgeries, and meetings

attended; she thanked the officers of each Council for their help and assistance.

She spoke about Adult Social Care, the Libraries consultation, and renovations at County Hall.

She reported on SCC meetings attended; she answered questions on how she had voted and why.

18/29C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

i. Comments on a delayed ambulance response to a pedestrian accident outside the Town Hall last week.

ii. Deputy Mayor: Wells will be taking part in The Great British Spring Clean 2-4th March.

18/30C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next being will be held at **7.00pm on Thursday 22nd March 2018**