



WELLS CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL SUMMONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL, WHICH MEMBERS ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND, WILL BE HELD IN WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM

Please note this meeting will be recorded for the purpose of minute-taking.

Steve Luck
Town Clerk

Town Hall, Market Place
Wells,
BA5 2RB
01749 673091
e-mail: townclerk@wells.gov.uk

17th November 2022

AGENDA

Wells City Council has declared a climate emergency. Each agenda item must consider the impact on any policy and decision.

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.
- 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27TH OCTOBER 2022**
To be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.
- 4 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Mayor.
- 5 POLICE REPORT**
- 6 FIRST BUS**
Presentation by Doug Claringbold, First Bus and Mike Rigby, Somerset County Council to discuss:
 - issues facing bus services in and out of Wells
 - measures being taken to mitigate the impact of bus services affected

7 SOMERSET SKILLS AND LEARNING

Presentation to reintroduce Community Learning by Kathryn Baker, CEO of Somerset Skills & Learning

8 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor's Diary

- i. 26th Nov, St Joseph & Teresa's Christmas Bazaar, Wells Town Hall
- ii. 30th Nov, Performance at Wells Cathedral Pre-Prep – Deputy Mayor attending
- iii. 3rd Dec, Crib Festival, St Cuthbert's Church
- iv. 3rd Dec, Messiah Concert, Wells Cathedral
- v. 4th Dec, Advent Carol Service, Wells Cathedral
- vi. 5th Dec, Christmas Celebration Concert, Wells Cathedral
- vii. 6th Dec, Christmas Celebration, Wells Cathedral Junior School
- viii. 7th Dec, St John Ambulance Presentation Evening and Carol Service, Wells Town Hall
- ix. 14th Dec, Somerset Freemasons, Annual Carol Service, Wells Cathedral
- x. 15th Dec, Christmas Party, Heads Up
- xi. 16th Dec, Christmas Party for Ukrainian Families and their Hosts, Portway Annexe
- xii. 17th Dec, Wells City Band Christmas Concert, Wells Town Hall - Deputy Mayor attending
- xiii. 18th Dec, Family Fancy Dress Fayre, Market Place
- xiv. 19th Dec, Carols by Candlelight, Wells Cathedral

Invitation from The Mayor to join him in the Mayor's Parlour after the Full Council Meeting on 22nd December for Christmas refreshments.

9 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

To note the vacancy in St Cuthbert's Ward.

10 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2022 (to follow)

11 OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2022 (attached by email)

12 FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2022 (attached by email)

13 COUNCILLORS MONTHLY SURGERY

To receive an update from Cllrs G Folkard and P Welch

14 STAFFING COMMITTEE

- i. To consider proposal for a stand-alone staffing committee to meet quarterly (Cllr Robbins, Lead Councillor and Cllr Welch, Deputy Lead)
- ii. To elect four extra members

15 CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY

Feedback and proposal by Cllr Denis, seconded by Cllr Eden.

Wells City Council to ensure there is a regular oversight of issues related to Climate Emergency on Outside Spaces Committee meeting agendas, with a working party set up to feedback to the Outside Spaces Committee.

16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Consultation feedback and outcomes from Cllr Denis

17 WELLS HERITAGE PARTNERS

To appoint a representative to the Wells Heritage Partners on behalf of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust.

18 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- i. Connect Centre Report from Cllr Welch (attached).
- ii. Museum Report from Jenny Rust (attached)

19 TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To follow, if any received.

20 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be Thursday 22nd December 2022, 7pm

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it will be proposed by the Mayor that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended.

Circulation List:

Town Clerk/RFO	Town Crier	Wells Chamber of Commerce
Town Clerk Assistant	WCC Internal Auditor	Wells Civic Society
Cemetery & Burial Officer	Wells Journal & Wells Voice	Wells Visitor Information
Outside Spaces Officer	Mendip District Council	The Bishop's Palace
Wells City Council members	District Councillors	Wells Cathedral
Serjeants-at-Mace	County Councillor	Wells Police Station
Mayor's Chaplain		

Agenda Item – 18 (i)

Concerns had been raised with me about changes at the Connect Centre so I asked their Lead Pastor, David Smyth, what was happening in my role as the link between the centre and Wells City Council. His response is below.

Councillor Philip Welch

There is nothing really changing at Connect at this time, it is just we have decided not to hire out the building to produce an income going forward, so we have given 2 months' notice to all the current hirers rent free and this period ends on 31st December 2022. Our reasons for this are:

1. We are looking for more space for us as a church within the premises
2. We want to create a greater flexibility with the use of the premises than we currently have, and finally,
3. To explore the upgrading of the premises itself

We are making some concessions for use of the building like for Wells Soup, the only difference being we will not charge for the use of the premises. I hope the money saved can be added as a small contribution to increase the amount of money available to benefit the people who win grants for the causes they run.

The projects will continue as they normally do with the Community Connect Team still working in the building, the delivery of courses with Somerset Skills and Learning and the provision of multiple drop-in facilities throughout the week, the Wednesday lunch, of course, and the Sunday lunch which the church runs after its service on a Sunday.

The counselling service is not changing either, in fact it is growing, and we are currently taking on more counsellors so we would like to try and provide a room/s that are a dedicated space for meeting with people in private for this and other one to one meeting.

We intend to continue with Dairy House, our direct access hostel, Housing First for those who find it hard to obtain and hold down tenancies and Evergreen House as move-on accommodation. We are likely to add to these existing provisions the re-establishment of Youth work (worker funding dependent), and the creation of Warm Spaces throughout the week to meet the needs of those struggling with the existing economic crisis.

There is the possibility of a Parent & Toddler group, CAP Job Club, money advice and so on. The work we want to carry out on the building is hoped to include an upgrading of the showers & toilet facilities as well as general decorating and the creation of more useable spaces, all of which will be funding dependent.

As a church we have changed our name from Elim Connect to Connect Community Church as from the 1st of November 2022, but we are keeping the designation The Connect Centre as this is how the premises are known to everyone.

Since coming to Wells one of the things that has surprised me is the fact that Connect is only known as a community centre. I have had many interactions with people in the community that despite having been in the building and serving within some of the activities the expression that has been repeatedly said to me is, "I never knew the Connect Centre was a church".

The building was taken on by Stephen Fowler, and the lease of the building is in the name of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance and so rather than the church just being a group that uses the building once a week we are wanting the church to be central to all that we do.

We will still be using the building as a community resource and hub as you can see from what I have outlined above and therefore it is our desire to continue to serve the community of Wells as has been done for many years under the leadership of the church.

David Smyth

Lead Pastor

Connect Community Church

Agenda Item – 18 (ii)

Wells and Mendip Museum Report

Wells and Mendip Museum open its doors to the public five days a week. This is entirely due to our wonderful volunteers. We have a part-time Office Manager and two part-time caretakers but everything else happens because of our volunteers.

The Front of House team welcome visitors and stock the shop, the Maintenance team restore and repair and can turn their hand to pretty much anything. The gardeners have created a beautiful and restful garden which includes plants rescued from Dean Turner's garden at The Old Deanery.

Our Treasurer devotes two days a week to keeping the finances in order, while our Education team work with local schools and our local heritage partners to introduce new generations of schoolchildren to the wonders of our collections.

Supporting the research function of the museum we have the Library team dealing with books, journals, magazines and newspapers. Behind the scenes in the Archives, holding it all together, we have our highly-skilled Honorary Curator, supported by other volunteers who offer their expertise and enthusiasm in classifying and categorising such items as medieval seals and minerals and piecing together 18th century china dug up in the museum's garden.

The Trustees, who oversee the governance of the museum, are volunteers. We are all working together to keep the Wells and Mendip Museum at the forefront of cultural, social and educational life in Wells.

Jenny Rust

WCC Nominated Trustee

November 2022