



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 26TH OCTOBER 2023 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

19th October 2023

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 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023**
To be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.
- 4 PROPOSAL FOR A SAFER SPEED LIMIT ON A PARTICULAR SECTION OF THE A39 MAIN ROAD BETWEEN WELLS AND GLASTONBURY.**
Put forward by a Glastonbury resident.
(See attachment, below)
- 5 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Mayor.

6 POLICE REPORT

7 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. 28th Oct – Mayor's Quiz, Wells Town Hall
- ii. 28th Oct – Classic Motorcycle Club Presentation Evening, Town Crier attending
- iii. 30th Oct – Wells in Gloom, Shop Window judging
- iv. 30th Oct – Wookey Hole Scarecrow Competition
- v. 1st Nov – Blessing of the River Brue, Pomparles Bridge
- vi. 11th Nov - Remembrance at the Conduit at 11am
- vii. 12th Nov - Remembrance Service 9.45am
- viii. 14th Nov – Wells Floral Art Club, Wells Town Hall
- ix. 17th Nov – Wells Carnival
- x. 18th Nov – Wells Twinning 40th Anniversary Dinner, Wells Town Hall
- xi. 19th Nov – Wells Twinning 40th Celebration Lunch, Wells Town Hall

8 OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2023 (attached)

9 STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2023 (attached)

10 FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2023 (attached)

11 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT (attached)

To receive the external audit report from Finance & Council Matters Committee

12 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2023 (to follow)

13 WELLS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To receive updates (attached by email/copy at meeting)

14 5G PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE (attached by email/copy at meeting)

To consider the future of the principle

15 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

To approve (attached)

16 REPORT FOLLOWING LAST COUNCILLORS SURGERY ON 16TH OCTOBER

Councillors in attendance: Cllr L Agabani and Cllr S Powell

17 YOUTH CLUB

To receive a report from Cllr P Welch

18 WCN NETWORK

Restricting the sale of Vapes. Cllr P Welch

19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- i Citizens Advice Bureau report - Cllr D Denis (attached by email/copy at meeting)
- ii Tor Hill Lane report - Cllr D Denis (attached by email/copy at meeting)

20 TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

To follow, if any received

21 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be **Thursday 23rd November 2023, 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	Somerset Councillors	Wells Journal & Wells Voice
Town Clerk Assistant	Serjeants-at-Mace	Wells Chamber of Commerce
Cemetery & Burial Officer	Mayor's Chaplain	The Bishop's Palace
Outside Spaces Officer	Town Crier	Wells Cathedral
Wells City Council members	Wells Civic Society	Avon & Somerset Police
	WCC Internal Auditor	

A safer road for all users between Wells and Glastonbury

We call upon Somerset Council to make the road safer for everyone, whatever their mode of travel, between Wells and Glastonbury.

The first step to achieve this, will be a 30mph speed limit on the stretch of the A39 between the former Three Wells pub, and the Polsham turning.

There are frequent crashes between vehicles on this section of the road. The narrow double bends make it dangerous for drivers. Every crash causes long road closures and diversions for all traffic.

At present the speed limit is 60mph, and drivers seem to try to drive as near to the limit as they dare. If there are not more accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists, it is because they do not dare use the road even when they would like to. Testing the road on foot is the best way to find out if it is safe and comfortable for all users. Lack of foot traffic is a sign of a poor balance of road users, where non-drivers are denied any access at all to the road, for the marginal convenience of drivers.

Many people do try to walk along this road, whether because they live on that section, and are for instance heading for the bus stop, or because they are travelling between Glastonbury and Polsham, Coxley or Wells, and wish to, or have to, walk. There is no footpath on either side of the road from Long Drove until the road leaves the bends towards Wells. Footpath or verge, where it exists at either end of the section, is on one side only – southwards it is on the east side, northwards it is a narrow pavement along the west side, so pedestrians have to cross the road at least once. Much of this stretch has no verge, and some is bounded by a high stone wall, with few escape points.

Cycling is an obvious choice of travel along this attractive, level, six-mile direct route between Glastonbury and Wells. Many who are too young to drive, opt to cycle, as do other non-drivers and many others who respect and enjoy the beautiful environment and the pleasure of being active. It can be quicker to cycle than to drive, when you factor in parking. The alternative routes are up to half as far again, are more hilly, and also intersect with the A39. Cyclists can't use the pavement at Polsham and Coxley.

Several improvements can be made to encourage walking and cycling while improving comfort for residents and safety for drivers, including: better crossing points to access pavement and footpath and to be on the safer side of the road at different points; further speed limits along the road; better bus stops; better-maintained pavements; a multi-user path extending along the verge at least from Long Drove to the Three Wells pub, and ideally further. All of these would be good, in the longer term.

Meanwhile, the easiest, cheapest, quickest and probably the most immediately effective measure will be a 30mph speed limit through the double bends at Southway.

We call upon the County Highways authority to institute this measure as soon as possible.