

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: L Agabani (Chair), T Butt Philip, D Denis, S Eden, D Orrett, S Powell (Vice Chair), G Robbins

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk Assistant: C Woodland  
Outside Spaces Officer: M Johnson  
Cllr: J Browne  
WCC Staff: S Glendinning  
SCC Cllr: T Munt  
1 Member of the public

**Non-attendance:** N/A

#### **23/01/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Cllrs: N Kennedy

#### **23/02/OSE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012.  
None declared.

#### **23/03/OSE MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

Cllr Denis asked whether the letters & survey had been sent to allotment holders. The Open Spaces Officer agreed to find out.

Cllr Denis also asked whether any changes had been made to the recreation ground toilets and it was confirmed, due to misuse, the opening hours were now 8:30am – 4pm. The Outside Spaces Team were making an appearance whilst the cleaner is on site to ensure she is not vulnerable. PCSO's have also been made aware.

The minutes were presented and agreed and signed as a true record.

#### **23/04/OSE MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Nobody wished to speak.

#### **23/05/OSE OUTSIDE SPACES**

##### **i. Skateboard park**

Cllr Agabani advised this project was not progressing further until after the unitary process. Cllr G Robbins has been asked to join the working party and was very much in favour as she felt Wells needs more for the younger residents.

##### **ii. To receive an update from the Outside Spaces Officer**

The Outside Spaces Team have been busy taking down the Christmas lights and concentrating on winter tidying in the City – clearing the gullies in the High Street, hedge cutting. There are a number of collapsed hedges in Lovers Walk which may need to be removed, Cllr Denis advised MDC had spare trees which could be used for any replanting and will provide contact details. Costs are being obtained for a new road legal mower.

Cllr Denis asked whether lamp posts in the grounds of St Cuthbert's Church could be given a coat of paint. The Outside Spaces Officer agreed to look into.

iii. **Wells in Bloom (WIB)**

Cllr Powell gave an update. A review is taking place. Drought tolerant plants are being costed, initially for beds at the bus station. Watering only once a day in the evening is being considered as currently plants are watered both morning and evening.

The review includes the sponsorship scheme. It was made aware if income exceeds costs, VAT is applicable across the whole of the Council's services. There are two hanging baskets in Priest Row which were purchased by a resident. They were being watered for the resident, prior to WCC bringing this scheme in house. The resident has asked if WCC can water them as part of their watering round.

Cllr Denis proposed for WCC to consider this request providing it was possible, and this was seconded. A vote was taken and it was agreed the Outside Spaces Officer will consider the feasibility of re-watering these two baskets in Priest Row and report back to this committee and the resident. Cllr G Robbins did not take part in the vote, declaring an interest.

Cllr Denis advised the school's WIB competition will start in March with the award ceremony taking place at the Bishop's Palace in the summer. The award ceremony for the allotments and gardens will take place on Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Oct at the Town Hall. Councillors were asked for their involvement.

iv. **Litter Pick**

Cllr Orrett gave an update. The latest litter pick weekend (21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> January) had been a great success. Litter pick in the City takes place three times a year. Feedback from residents is always very positive. The Outside Spaces Team were thanked for helping clear the A371 from Morrisons to the first bridge.

There was a discussion around insurance cover if volunteers litter pick outside the City boundary. Further clarification is sought from the Town Clerk.

Cllr Browne was thanked for getting local Squirrels (part of the Scout movement) involved in clearing the Cathedral Green. Cllr Orrett put forward Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May which is the bank holiday King's Coronation weekend for a communal litter pick as part of The Big Help Out. Cllr G Robbins suggested contacting the local schools to ask for their involvement, with The Mayor and some councillors visiting the schools to speak to pupils. Cllr Orrett to take forward.

**23/06/OSE CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Cllr Denis had circulated notes from the first meeting with the agenda. The website has been updated to include the Climate Emergency working party and Wells Environment Network (WEN). A draft survey is being trialled and it will be copied to all Councillors for their feedback. They will be present at the King's Coronation Community Event on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May to talk to members of the public. Cllr Denis encouraged councillors to visit the Sustainable Wells website and calculate their own carbon footprint usage.

**23/07/OSE CEMETERY**

i. Memorial inspection

In the absence of the Town Clerk, this matter was carried over until the next meeting in March.

**23/08/OSE PORTWAY ANNEXE**

Cllr Orrett gave an update. Alex Westwood, Communications & Portway Annexe Manager, is back from paternity leave. An additional member of staff is now employed to enable the building to open 6 days a week (closed Sundays). Bookings are growing. Edgar Philips, Artist, is now in situ. The Citizens Advice have the access point up and running. The Ukrainian Hub are using the facility regularly. As the building is Grade 2 listed, planning permission is required for the new signage. WCC currently have a Defibrillator at the Bus Station and in the red phone box outside the Town Hall, it has

been suggested that there should also be one at the Annexe. Cllr Orrett to refer to the Town Clerk.

Cllr Powell asked whether there was a separate balance sheet available for the Annexe, it was advised to make the request via the Finance Committee.

**23/09/OSE RECREATION GROUND and Bishop's Barn**

The Outside Spaces Officer reported the initial electrical survey had been completed and awaiting the fire survey on the Bishop's Barn. Cllr Agabani wishes to hold a public meeting in the barn in April.

A professional cleaner is being considered to clean walls etc. prior to opening, as it's been closed for so long.

It was confirmed the Town Clerk had replied to the Bowls Club answering their questions.

Clare Blackmore has been working on signage for the building. This information will be copied to the Outside Spaces Officer.

Cllr Agabani asked where the Heads-Up bench would be positioned. It was agreed to be positioned along side the hedges by the entrance to the car park in South Street. The new bin for the playground will be in place shortly.

Cllr Agabani explained there was a working group that meet alongside this committee meeting, all were welcome to attend. It was appreciated no decisions could be made by the working group but any proposals would be brought back to the Committee/Full Council. The Town Clerk Assistant advised any work requests for the Outside Spaces Officer should be made via The Town Clerk.

**23/10/OSE PROPERTIES**

The Town Clerk Assistant advised no further progress had been made on the Old Post Office in the Market Hall. The committee will be kept updated.

**23/11/OSE ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

Cllrs Agabani and Butt Philip are in contact with SCC Highways to establish what is happening to the lamp in the Market Place. It was knocked over by a delivery lorry several months ago. Clarification is sought as to whether it will be replaced or should the stone mount (currently a tripping hazard) be removed. They will advise further.

Cllr Orrett asked about parking in the market place, it was advised there should be no parking at any time.

**23/12/OSE DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

**EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Note:** It is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it was proposed by the Chair that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended to allow a private property report.

Minutes signed by The Chair: .....

Date: .....