

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Mayor: Cllr S Cursley  
Outside Spaces Officer: M Johnson  
WCC Staff: S Glendinning  
1 Member of the public

**Non-attendance:** N/A

**23/44/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Cllrs: T Butt Philip, S Eden, N Kennedy

**23/45/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.

**23/46/OSE MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

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

**23/47/OSE MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Nobody wished to speak.

**23/48/OSE OUTSIDE SPACES**

The Outside Spaces Officer gave an update.

The outside spaces team have installed the flags along the High Street ahead of the King's Coronation.

- i. Allotments.  
Matt Johnson has carried out inspections on all the allotments and warning letters have been sent to those that have been left unattended.  
Cllr Denis advised they had received 12 allotment entries for the WIB competition.  
The current allotment waiting list of over 60 people was discussed. With no additional land available for allotments within the City boundary it was suggested to consider private garden sharing or creating a community garden (an area at the Portway Annexe could be an option). It was agreed there were a number of concerns with managing both of these options.

Cllr Orrett asked for an update on rats in the Keward area. Matt Johnson explained it was difficult to control in an outside area.  
Cllr Orrett also raised the issue on the number of rough sleepers seen around the City and belongings left in door-ways. Matt Johnson confirmed the local PCSO's are aware, individuals are put in contact with Street Link, help is offered and this is not always taken up.  
It was also mentioned that there was graffiti on the bench along the path from the moat to Dulcote and also offensive graffiti along the Strawberry Line. Matt Johnson agreed to ask his team to remove.

### **23/49/OSE CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Cllr D Denis provided an update.

- i Climate Change Questionnaire. The questionnaire was discussed. Cllr Agabani requested a change to question 5 to state 'Are you aware Wells City Council has a Climate Emergency Motion?'  
Cllr Robbins proposed the use of the questionnaire, this was seconded by Cllr Powell and agreed by the Committee. This will be taken to Full Council.
- ii 'Make Do Can Do' poster. Cllr Denis presented the poster produced by Chris Lee for the event taking place at the Portway Annexe on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. The poster includes the Wells City and Sustainable Wells logo to recognise the support they have provided in organising this event.  
Cllr Orrett proposed the use of the poster, this was seconded by Cllr G Robbins and agreed by the Committee.

The role of the Sustainability Officer was discussed. The position has remained unfilled and it had been agreed to re-visit once Unitary was in place. Resource may have been available under the new structure. It was agreed to discuss with Cllr Butt-Philip to establish whether there were any new developments.

### **23/50/OSE PORTWAY ANNEXE**

Cllr Orrett provided an update.

Stage 2 of the pipe insulation has been completed.

After the introduction of VAT on room hire, there had been no adverse effect on bookings.

The floor in Chamberlain Hall has been sanded, buffed and polished.

Broken glass in some windows are currently being replaced.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May there is a 'Monkey Market' sale for used children's clothes/toys. It's £10 to book a table.

The Mendip Community Buses are no longer parking at the Annexe, which will free up more parking space.

The Town Hall Manager, Kevin Westwood, is in the process of obtaining quotes to repaint the fascia board at the Annexe and Matt Johnson will also ensure the gutters are cleared.

### **23/51/OSE RECREATION GROUND and Bishop's Barn**

Cllr Powell provided an update.

The Open Day is booked for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May and a questionnaire has been created to hand out & seek local opinion on what is required from the barn. Teas and coffees will be served from the barn at the event. Cllr Powell to contact the Town Crier to ask for his support to provide a 'Cry' for the event at the market.

Bookings are not currently being taken for the barn use. A discussion took place and it was agreed for Matt Johnson to contact the Town Clerk and report back if bookings can now go ahead. A price list would need to be created by Wells City Council.

The Bowling Club has 9 years left on their lease. It was discussed and agreed by the committee that the lease should be reviewed. Matt Johnson to discuss with the Town Clerk and report back to the Committee.

There are a few broken railings and this is allowing youths to enter the bowling green. Matt Johnson agreed to investigate.

The bowls club had requested to park 25 cars on the Recreation Ground for an upcoming County game. This would be a 'one-off' request. This was discussed and it was agreed this could not be permitted due to health and safety concerns. The Town Clerk had also declined this request for the same reasons. Cllr Agabani suggested contact be made with Mike Phelps to use the Palace Fields.

### **23/52/OSE ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

Cllr Orrett advised there would be a 'Litter Picking' event on Monday in the City. A further 'Litter Picking' weekend was scheduled for the bank holiday at the end of May.

Cllr Denis advised Somerset were encouraging a 'No Mo May' for public and private areas. She asked Wells City Council to support this initiative.

**23/53/OSE DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 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:** .....