

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST JUNE 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: J Browne, D Denis, S Eden, D Orrett, S Powell, G Robbins

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr: L Agabani
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
Somerset Councillor: T Munt
0 Member of the public

Non-attendance: N/A

23/54/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllrs: T Butt-Philip, N Kennedy
Outside Spaces Officer: M Johnson

23/55/OSE TO APPOINT

The following were all proposed, seconded and elected:

- i. The Outside Spaces & Estates Chair – Cllr J Browne
- ii. The Outside Spaces & Estates Vice-chair – Cllr S Powell
- iii. The Lead Councillor for Portway Annexe – Cllr D Orrett
- iv. The Deputy Lead Councillor for Portway Annexe – Cllr S Eden
- v. The Lead Councillor for Bishop's Barn & Recreation Trust – Cllr S Powell
- vi. The Deputy Lead Councillor for Bishop's Barn & Rec Trust – Cllr L Agabani

It was also agreed for Cllr D Denis to remain as the Lead Councillor for Climate Emergency.

23/56/OSE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.
None declared.

23/57/OSE MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH MAY 2023

Cllr Powell raised the following:

23/48 – The graffiti on the Strawberry Line has not been removed.

23/51 – Has it been agreed whether the remaining 9-year lease at the Bowls Club can be reviewed.

Have the broken railings at the Bowls Club been fixed.

Cllr Browne agreed to discuss with Matt Johnson and advise further at the next meeting.

23/52 - 'No Mo May' Cllr Denis has written to Somerset Council to request whether Wells could be part of the pilot study next year and they have advised our interest in this can be submitted. Cllr Denis requested this be put on the July meeting agenda for the committee to agree whether this should be taken forward.

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

23/58/OSE MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Cllr Agabani, as Chair of Chamber of Commerce, raised the issue of holding the Charter Fair in the market place and the impact it's having on local business. They recommend a cost benefit analysis takes place, looking at the economic benefit, the pros & cons of its current format/location and the social benefit.

A discussion took place and it was felt the current fair operator may have broken their agreement at the May Fair. It was questioned whether alternative operators can be considered. It was unclear whether the current agreement was between Wells City Council or Somerset Council, Cllr Munt agreed to investigate and advise further. Cllr Browne confirmed Adrian Lawrence, (Proprietor of The Crown Inn, Market Place), has raised this issue previously at Full Council and in response to this, the Town Clerk was seeking legal advice

It was recommended by Cllr Browne and agreed by all to delay further discussion until the July meeting. Adrian Lawrence should be invited to attend this meeting along with the Town Clerk and Somerset Councillor, T Munt.

23/59/OSE OUTSIDE SPACES

In the absence of the Open Spaces Officer there was no update.

It was requested for Cllr Browne to request a written report from the Open Spaces Officer if he is unable to attend the meeting in future.

23/60/OSE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr D Denis provided an update.

1st July, 'Make Do Can Do' event at the Portway Annexe. Help is needed in running the event. Cllrs G Robbins and Powell agreed to attend. A lot of groups are booked. For example, Sustainable Wells, Community Fridge Project, Tor Hill Lane Pilot Project, Blue School Strawberry Line Wild Flowers Project, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Somerset Council. There will also be a speaker on 'Growing your Own' and Somerset Councillor Edric Hobbs providing 'cycle and safety'. Knife sharpening will be taking place outside.

Cllr Denis asked for everyone to advertise this event.

23/61/OSE WELLS IN BLOOM COMPETITIONS

Cllr Denis provided an update.

35 private and commercial garden entries – judging week comm. 12th and 19th July

17 allotment entries – judging 16th June

8 school entries – judging 26th June

School Children Award Day Fri 7th July at the Bishop's Palace

Adults Award Evening Fri 6th Oct, Wells Town Hall

Help is needed on running these two events.

Cllr Denis stated this has been a lot of hard work over the last two years and entries have dropped off. How this is run in the future will need to be considered. Cllr Denis was thanked by the Committee for all her efforts.

23/62/OSE PORTWAY ANNEXE

Cllr Orrett provided an update.

An iPad has been installed, making it easier for visitors to sign in.

Cracked windows have been replaced.

Introducing VAT has still not had a negative effect on bookings.

Stroke are reconnecting with a free return to work course, in conjunction with the job centre.

The first Monkey Market has taken place which was well attended.

A summer music school is being looked at to replace bookings that stop during the summer holidays.

A large mosaic of a tree has been created by a disadvantaged group. It may be installed at the Portway Annexe which would need planning approval. The committee will be consulted further.

23/63/OSE RECREATION GROUND and Bishop’s Barn

Cllr Powell presented her report on the Bishop’s Barn Open Day which had taken place on Saturday 20th May. The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It had been well attended and a few key results were highlighted:

A designated area for refreshments. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to ask the Town Clerk to pursue a tender for a ‘Kiosk’ in the Recreation Ground.

Concrete table tennis tables. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to obtain costings for two tables.

Accessible play equipment. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to obtain costings.

Cllr Powell stated it is still unclear as to when bookings can start for the Bishop’s Barn and a booking price list is yet to be communicated. Cllr Denis thanked Cllr Powell for all her hard work in setting up the Open Day and for the time spent in analysing the results. Cllr Denis wished to note her disappointment in not having the booking price list ready for this meeting as it was requested in last month’s meeting. It was agreed for Cllr Browne to investigate why bookings were not being made and when the price list would be available.

Cllr Powell had some concerns with the Bishop’s Barn/Recreation Ground Management Group and will consider how frequently they should meet and their effectiveness.

Cllr Denis asked for a sensory garden and braille on signs to be considered for this area. Cllr Munt asked whether Heads Up (The Mayor’s Charity) could be involved. Cllr Browne agreed to discuss with Matt Johnson the idea of a community garden.

23/64/OSE ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr G Robbins asked who was responsible for dog bins in the City. Cllr Munt advised Somerset Council oversee these bins and she is happy to help with any complaints on non-emptying.

23/65/OSE DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 6th July 2023

It was agreed to meet again on 6th July and at this meeting consider moving to every two months thereafter.

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: