

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

WELLS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2012

Minutes of Wells Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18th April 2012 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall.

PRESENT: Chairman: D Unwin (The Mayor; District Councillor)

City Councillors: Anderson, Brandon, Briton, Davies, Denison, Kennedy, Price (Deputy Mayor), Robbins.

City, District and County Councillors: Osman, Siggs

Approximately 11 members of the public.

1 member of the press.

In Attendance: Town Clerk F White.

1. **APOLOGIES:** City Cllrs: A Gibson, T Butt-Philip, G Wilson.
2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th March 2011** were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

3. **PRESENTATION:** Mendip District CCTV

The system is owned by Mendip District Council, funded in partnership with the five town (/ city) councils, monitored with the help of volunteers; the partnership employs the manager Chris Reeves, who gave an interesting talk about the scheme and was able to provide some statistics.

There was a short discussion and questions were answered. Mr Reeves was thanked and left the meeting.

4. **THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Mayor reported on an interesting year, beginning with changes brought about by the elections of May 2011; he thanked the Deputy Mayor for all his support. He spoke about internet developments; the transfer of the City Archive to the Museum; development of the Town Hall as a services hub; presentations to council meetings and the work of the council through the year. He thanked his family for their support, spoke of some of the highlights and of the honour of serving as Mayor.

5. **REPORTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES CHAIRMEN**

The Chairmen gave their reports and answered questions from Councillors and the public.

i. Planning and Environment Committee Cllr N Kennedy

An interesting year marked by delays to major supermarket appeals, now resolved. A further interesting year is forthcoming with major sites to be developed.

ii. Wells in Bloom Committee Cllr M Brandon

2011 saw a very successful year with lots of colour and over 400 entries to the schools painting competition. 1012 marks the start of a particularly busy year. New volunteers are always welcome. The programme is almost entirely dependent on sponsorship funding. The Mayor thanked Cllr Brandon very much for her hard work and thanked all the committee and supporters; the results are very beneficial to the city and very much appreciated.

iii. Archives and Civic Assets Committee Cllr H Siggs

The move of the City Archives to a purpose built storage facility in the Museum has been very successful.

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Students from Bath Spa University continue placement projects with the more modern archives retained in the Town Hall. The working group to redevelop the old Court Room have been following up on a variety of suggestions and will be producing some designs soon; the remit has broadened to incorporate energy issues and access for the disabled.

iv. Finance and General Purposes Committee Cllr T Robbins

This has been a very difficult year in local council finance generally; it has been a very interesting year working alongside the other committees. The city council finances are very well run; the RFO presents clear accounts every month and information is always available to the public.

v. Cemetery and Open Spaces Committee Cllr T Robbins

The Cemetery is being very well run. Things are changing and the City Council hopes to continue to be able to look after the open spaces in the city.

vi. City Centre Management Committee Cllr C Price

Councillors on this committee are joined by invited representatives from the community. The Chairman reported on the many successful events that had taken place, he particularly thanked Cllr Robbins and mentioned the Tour of Britain cycle race. The committee is actively involved with more events for the current year as well as with practical projects such as finger sign posts, cycle racks and monitoring of A Boards.

There were questions regarding the future of the skateboard park and on the forthcoming civil enforcement of on-street parking by Somerset County Council.

6. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The following points were raised:

- i. Local listing of protected buildings not on the statutory list.
- ii. Advertising the Annual Parish Meeting and a request for refreshments to be served as is done elsewhere, to enable more informal interaction.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.