

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2012, 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon (The Mayor); C Price; C Briton; J Osman; T Robbins; D Anderson; G Wilson; N Kennedy; A Denison; D Unwin; S Davies.

IN Town Clerk: F White.

ATTENDANCE: RFO S Luck; Mace-Bearer: G Weatherhead; Chaplain: A Wheeler.
2 Police Officers. 1 member of the press; 1 member of the public.

12/154C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: J Mitchell (approved); T Butt Philip (Deputy Mayor); A Gibson; H Siggs; J North.

12/155C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS None.

12/156C MINUTES of the meeting of the City Council held on 25th October 2012 were proposed, seconded accepted and signed.

12/157C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr Hudsmith spoke about:

- i. Loud music from Carnival floats
- ii. Flooding on highways

Councillors responded.

12/158C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Sgt Muers reported:

i. Wells Carnival– a very successful event; no arrests.

ii. Whiting Way temporary car park– proposal for early closure arrangements to control anti-social behaviour; he answered Councillors' questions, taking note of comments and opinions.

PC Roy Strong was introduced, he will be the acting Beat Manager in Wells for the next two months while PC Darren Pearson is away on exercises.

12/159C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported forthcoming events; Councillors' attention was drawn to 13th December Carol Service.

12/160C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2012.

The Chairman drew Councillors' attention to minute 12/53CC.

The minutes were proposed, seconded and accepted.

12/161C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 1st November.

The minutes were proposed, seconded and accepted.

12/162C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2012.

The Chairman drew Councillors' attention to minute 12/52S.

The minutes were proposed, seconded and accepted.

Cllr Unwin spoke in his professional capacity as a Funeral Director, he asked for the thanks of himself and his family to the Cemetery staff to be recorded; he said the way the staff had conducted themselves and dealt with very difficult

circumstances during appalling weather the previous week had been outstanding. The Mayor said the way the Cemetery is run is a credit to the Council and to Wells; her comments were supported.

12/163C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2012.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and accepted.

12/164C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Somerset County Council, Cllr Osman.

a. Community Enablement Fund Bid

Cllr Osman reported SCC has awarded a grant of £26,000+VAT to Wells City Council; an addition to the bid is being prepared for training requirements. He thanked Councillors for the work done in Committees to progress the project over the last few weeks.

Cllr Osman also reported the Trustees of St Lawrence Day Care Centre in Wells have been awarded a grant from the Fund.

b. Local Choice Events

SCC has been holding a series of discussions with local communities about shared services; Wells is already progressing schemes, – the Elim Connect Centre is leading in Youth Services and the City Council bid to the Enablement Fund mirrors projects for smaller councils available through the Community Warden Scheme; the Town Clerk and RFO were thanked for their hard work in preparing this well-constructed bid.

ii. Wells Carnival, Cllr Robbins

The change of route had worked well; there were no plans to change it again. The committee was pleased with the increase in takings on the night.

Alleged increase in sound volume can be checked by Environmental Health MDC Officers if required.

The Rogers Family (Fun Fair) were very pleased; it was a much better event for them this year.

The Police had said there was a good friendly atmosphere and no arrests.

The Town Clerk was asked to write thanking the Carnival Committee.

iii. Transition Wells, Cllr Briton

A grant has been received from British Gas to purchase a thermal imaging camera for identifying heat-loss from premises, enabling owners to make improvements.

iv. Fair Trade, Cllr Briton

Fair Trade Fortnight will take place in February; the Wells branch may wish to use the Town Hall as a venue.

v. Residents Groups

Cllr Davies reported from an informal residents' group meeting based at St Thomas St; the group had discussed car parking issues there and elsewhere around the City.

SCC: Cllr Osman reported as County Councillor he has been consulted by various residents on this issue. The County Council is currently formulating a Residents Parking Policy.

12/165C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Kennedy asked that the new Police Commissioner be invited to speak to the City Council, this was agreed.
- ii. Cllr Anderson announced that the Christmas Lights would be put up in the City on Sunday morning 2nd December at the same time as the Reindeer Parade.
- iii. Cllr Davies was pleased to note the item "Meeting Open to the Public" on

the agenda; there was a discussion on the wording of this item.

12/166C

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting will be at **7pm on Thursday 20th December 2012**
The Mayor extended a cordial invitation to all present at that meeting to hospitality in the Mayor's Parlour afterwards.