

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2013
AT 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Butt Philip (The Mayor); C Briton (Deputy Mayor); D Anderson;
M Brandon; A Denison; A Gibson; N Kennedy; J North; J Osman;
J Parkes; T Robbins; H Siggs; D Unwin; G Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White. Mace-Bearer: J Rood.
K Deverell, Mendip YMCA. PC Pearson, Avon and Somerset Police.
1 member of the press. 5 members of the public.

13/113C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs: S Davies; C Price. Chaplain: Ven. N Sullivan.

13/114C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS None.

13/115C MINUTES of the meeting of the City Council held on 27th July 2013 were proposed, seconded, approved and signed by the Mayor.

13/116C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- i. Mr Loveday spoke about the Wells Festival of Literature, outlining the exciting programme arranged for this year. The festival is very popular and is in a sound financial position.
- ii. Mrs Loveday spoke about Wells Art Contemporary, she described the inspiring programme, the competition has a spectacular prize.
- iii. Mrs Siddons asked if the commissioned report on the Recreation Ground Trust had been received from Mendip District Council; it had not. Cllr North offered to arrange for Minutes of the Trust's Board meetings to be copied to the City Council.

13/117C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PC Pearson reported on recent activity. Priorities from the PACT meeting were speeding in Tor Street and parking in Wookey Hole Road. He noted matters raised by Councillors:

- i. Disruptive street behaviour late at night after City events (NOTT)
- ii. Pub Watch
- iii. Parking on pavements

The Police were particularly thanked for their work on a recent case in Wells.

13/118C PRESENTATION: Mendip YMCA.

Mendip YMCA has recently won a bid to carry forward its youth services in partnership with other agencies in the District; it has been commended for its innovative work on homelessness prevention. This very interesting presentation described some of the work involved. The service constantly seeks funding from a wide variety of sources. Councillors thanked the Team for their dedication and hard work.

13/119C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor has visited the Twin Town of Bad Dürkheim (Germany). He referred briefly to his diary of events attended.

Council will attend the annual Remembrance Service at St Cuthbert's Church on the morning of Sunday 10th November.

13/120C COMMUNITY PANEL To appoint a member to the Aster Homes Somerset Neighbourhood Panel: Cllr Unwin was appointed.

- 13/121C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of meetings held on 8th August, 5th September and 19th September 2013.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
- 13/122C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 29th August 2013.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions. He thanked the Archivist who works so tirelessly to present the Archives, he thanked Councillors and all who supported the Heritage Open Day.
- 13/123C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2013.
The Chairman presented the minutes.
- 13/124C MINUTES OF THE CEMETERY AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2013.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
- 13/125C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2013.
The Deputy Mayor presented the minutes and invited questions.
- 13/126C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2013 and approve recommendations.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
RECOMMENDED: To adopt amended Financial Regulations.
The recommendation was proposed and seconded, a vote was taken and the motion was carried.
The Chairman requested Council's permission for the Seal to be used on documents relating to renewal of property leases (13/86F): proposed, seconded and approved.
- 13/127C MINUTES OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2013.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
The Deputy Mayor commented on the thefts of baskets and plants. The Leader of MDC spoke deploring these deliberate unpleasant actions. The Mayor added his support to these remarks.
- 13/128C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**
i. Working Group reviewing Council Reception Service and Town Hall Offices:
The group has consulted the staff and invited the public to comment.
Any councillor who would like to have any input is now requested to speak to one of the group.
ii. The Deputy Mayor asked if the City Council is considering commemoration of the start of the First World War. A group was appointed to work on this, Cllrs: Briton, Parkes, Siggs; (Cllr Osman to be kept informed).
iii. Cllr Siggs reported that he has seen the 'City of Wells' railway locomotive in Haworth railway shed, restoration is nearing completion.
- 13/129C DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm on Thursday 24th October 2013.**