

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, THURSDAY 26TH JUNE 2014

PRESENT: Cllrs: C Briton (The Mayor); G Wilson (Deputy Mayor)
D Anderson; M Brandon; S Davies; A Gibson; N Kennedy; J North;
J Parkes; C Price; T Robbins

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White RFO: S Luck
Mace-Bearer: M Goody Chaplain: A Wheeler
1 Member of the press 5 Members of the Civic Society
Guests speaker: Cllr F Horsington (Cerne Abbas, Dorset)

14/89C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: T Butt Philip; J Osman; H Siggs

14/90C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012:

Cllr North declared a personal interest as a member of Mendip District Council, in matters relating to Neighbourhood Planning.

14/91C MINUTES of the Annual City Council meeting held on 17th (Mayor Making) & 21st May 2014 (attached) were proposed, seconded, approved, and signed.

14/92C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Mayor

- i. Wells Civic Society invited all present to join them informally for further discussion after the meeting.

14/93C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Nicholson sent his apologies, due to other duties involving Glastonbury Festival.

14/94C PRESENTATION: Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Horsington (Cerne Abbas, West Dorset) spoke about making a Neighbourhood Plan, and answered questions.

14/95C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Wells Neighbourhood Plan consultation launch: Saturday 5th July 2014
 - ii. Children's Choir Mayor's Charity Concert 6.30pm Tuesday 8th July
 - iii. WW1 Commemorations: Poppy Bed Dedication Monday 4th August 2014
- Cllr Kennedy called upon the Council to recognise Eileen Giles, former Mayor of the City of Wells, who died earlier in the month. In response to her express wishes, there were no official ceremonies or announcements.

14/96C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2014 (attached)
The Vice-Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
Improvements were reported regarding provision and emptying of bins.
Council noted the help given by Mr Toole with the Christmas lighting display.

14/97C MINUTES OF THE CEMETERY AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2014 (attached)
The Mayor presented the minutes and invited questions.
(The Deputy Mayor expressed his willingness to become Chairman at the next meeting of the committee, having been absent when nominated).

- 14/98C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2014 (attached)
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
- 14/99C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 5th June 2014 and 19th June 2014 (attached) The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
- 14/100C MINUTES OF ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE.**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2014 (attached)
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
- 14/101C TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO FILL VACANCIES**
i. Staffing Committee
Cllr Anderson was appointed.
ii. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Cllr Wilson was appointed.
- 14/102C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust
Cllr North gave a detailed report of the latest meeting of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust. The trustees had agreed to:
- Progress the restoration of the Bishop's Barn
- Create a destination play area
- Investigate extension of the Trust membership
- Investigate residents' parking schemes (with SCC)
- Form a wider working group of people with relevant experience
In answer to questions Cllr North said:
- MDC made a financial contribution to the cost of the options appraisal.
- £550,000 was raised from the sale of Park Cottage; part of this had been used on essential repairs and grass-cutting; some may be needed for match-funding on the restoration of the Bishop's Barn.
- A full finance report will be given at the next meeting of the trustees.
ii. Wells Sports Council
Cllr Price reported that meetings of the various bodies considering the change of location continue; it seems difficult to get up-to-date plans and information from MDC. There are still many questions to be answered and it is hard to communicate with so many different groups involved.
The football club is the main user of the present site but the athletics club is the leaseholder and pays the rent.
- 14/103C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**
i. Members commented on recent press reports relating to NALC guidance on press and media policies for local councils.
- 14/104C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**
The next meeting will take place at 7pm on **Thursday 24th July 2014**