

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2015 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon; A Gibson (Deputy Mayor); N Kennedy;
J Ludovino; R MacKenzie; J North; J Osman; C Price; H Siggs; D Swain;
D Unwin; G Wilson (The Mayor); C Wride

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
Mace-Bearer: J Rood
Chaplain: Canon G Dodds
Mendip CCTV Manager
1 member of the public
No press representative

15/140C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Cox (approved), C Briton; T Robbins
Avon & Somerset Police

15/141C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012:
None declared.

15/142C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH

NOVEMBER 2015 Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

15/143C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A member of the public spoke about Bus Users UK consultations; there is a proposal to hold an open meeting at Wells bus station in January.

15/144C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Apologies received.

15/145C PRESENTATION: Mendip CCTV

Mendip CCTV Manager provided information and answered a variety of questions about the service.

15/146C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Bishop Bekynton Commemoration Service, Wells Cathedral, 3pm, Sunday 17th January 2016.
- ii. Approximately £8,000 has been raised to date for the Mayor's Charities; a further donation is expected from the filming of 'Another Mother's Son' thanks to negotiations by the Town Clerk.
- iii. Cllr Baker has announced his official change of name to David Swain.
- iv. Everyone present was invited to the Mayor's Parlour for seasonal refreshments following this evening's meeting.

15/147C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2015.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
Michael Johns, Chairman of the Wells Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, was thanked for all his hard work for the Christmas Shopping evening.

15/148C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2015.

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

The Mayor reported that he has resigned from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

15/149C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2015:

RECOMMENDED:

To set the Precept for 2016-17 as recommended in the Budget approved 26th November.

- i. Cllr Price presented the minutes and invited questions.

There were questions about the disruption in the city due to the recent filming.

Cllr Siggs reported that MDC had been compensated for loss of revenue on their own car park only.

The Town Clerk reported that individual businesses had signed location

agreements with the film company and each had received payments.

It was agreed that filming could be beneficial to the city but also that improved communication could be helpful in future.

- ii. **PRECEPT**

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved: that the Precept be set at £349,437 for 2016-17.

15/150C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr North said that work on the governance documents for the Trust is on-going. He thanked the Town Clerk for responding to the Charity Commission on behalf of the City Council and for writing the letter so succinctly. He said that other comments had been submitted and that the Trustees had also asked for some clarification.

It is anticipated that after the New Year MDC will receive a report from the Charity Commission. After this it is hoped that MDC will be able to make a presentation to the City Council, in January or February.

Cllr North was thanked for all his work in this difficult and demanding role.

- ii. Somerset County Council

Cllr Osman reported further reductions in the central government settlement figure.

He spoke about the Devon and Somerset combined councils Devolution bid.

He spoke briefly about the conclusion of the South West One contract.

15/151C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Gibson thanked Andrew from the Open Spaces team for cleaning all the road signs throughout the City. This has made a very noticeable difference.
- ii. Cllr Kennedy as Father of the Council wished the Mayor and Mayoress a very happy Christmas and New Year on behalf of the Council.

15/152C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at **7.00pm on Thursday 28th January 2016.**