

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: J Rood; Chaplain: Canon G Dodds
Avon & Somerset Police
J Birch, Somerset Community Council
6 members of the public
No member of the press

15/124C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Cox, Osman; D Unwin.

Wells Journal

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Cllr Cox be given 6 months approved absence from Council for health reasons.

15/125C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr Gibson (the Deputy Mayor) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in financial matters and left the room during 15/132C.

See 15/120C.

15/126C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2015 Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

Matters arising

- i. 15/115C The Mayor reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner will speak to Council in January.
- ii. 15/122Ciii. Remedial works to the bandstand to be followed up.

15/127C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

15/128C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PC Pearson reported on recent incidents in Wells and introduced Sergeant Matt Slade. Sgt Slade explained the current organisational structure, answered questions and commended the local police team. Councillors were recommended to visit Police headquarters at Portishead.

15/129C PRESENTATION

Somerset Community Council: 'Housing Needs Survey'

J Birch spoke and answered questions. The Mayor thanked her and said that the matter would be referred to the Planning Committee for consideration.

(Cllr Siggs arrived)

15/130C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Thursday 10th December: Mid-Somerset Carol Concert, Wells Cathedral.
- ii. The Mayor thanked all who attended the Remembrance Service.
- iii. At least £5,000 was raised at the 'Call my wine bluff' charity event, he

- thanked everyone for their support.
- iv. A small reception and farewell presentation to the Dean has taken place in the Mayor's parlour, on behalf of the Council.

15/131C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2015
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
15/26A: the fire hydrants have been reclaimed from Somerset County Council highways and will be refurbished.

15/132C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 5th November 2015 and 19th November 2015
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
(15/185P amended to correct name)
Members attention was drawn to items for the next meeting on 3rd December:

- i. Presentation on proposal for a Premier Inn
- ii. Final comments for response to MDC Local Plan Part II

15/133C (Cllr Gibson, Deputy Mayor, left the room)

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2015:

RECOMMENDED:

To adopt the draft budget for 2016-17; the Precept to be set at the December meeting of full Council.

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved: that the budget for 2016-27 be adopted** as recommended. (Cllr Ludovino abstained)

(Cllr Gibson, Deputy Mayor, returned)

15/134C SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

Cllr Siggs declared a personal interest as a Somerset County Councillor.

I. Response to the SCC 'Listening, learning, changing' consultation
There was a discussion about the nature of the consultation and the issues involved.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed not to submit a collated council response. (Cllr Siggs abstained). Members could send their individual responses.

II. Bus Services Consultations

It was agreed not to submit a collated council response; members could respond individually.

15/135C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr North reported the Trust Board has voted to move the play area to the Recreation field. He thanked all those who have attended the public meetings and said that the trust has made a decision that will deliver an excellent play area for the people of Wells and surrounding area. An important consideration was that the new site will ensure greater safety for families as the general public will not have to pass through the play area in order to access the public toilets. Cllr North said that the on-going work on governance of the trust continued, questions from the Charity Commissioners had pushed things back by about three weeks.

Questions were asked about a draft governance Scheme, subject to a public consultation opened by the Charity Commission on 12th November. Members had not been aware of this document nor of the public consultation.

In conclusion the Mayor summarised the points raised; the Town Clerk was

instructed to write to the Charity Commission in response to the consultation and to MDC, raising the City Council's concerns:

- 4.1: 'maintenance of a recreation ground'
The Council would suggest the wording 'the recreation ground'
- 5.2,3: 'powers to dispose and replace'
These powers appear inappropriate. The Council would seek endorsement of any such actions by a democratically elected body.
- 7.3: The meaning and scope of this clause is unclear.
- Schedule Part 2, Land: The Council notes the cottage is included; however, the cottage has been sold by the current trustees.
- Wells City Council would welcome the opportunity to see an early copy of the next draft.

ii. Mendip District Council

Cllr Siggs reported the main challenge at present is around devolution; a bid is being put together by Somerset and Devon, with the Districts and other authorities.

(Cllr Robbins gave his apologies and left the meeting)

iii. Cllr MacKenzie reported from the MDC Empty Homes Forum.

iv. Cllr MacKenzie reported from the Connect Youth Centre

v. Wells Athletic Ground

Cllr Ludovino reported a very detailed plan has been prepared ready to present to MDC in January

vi. Wells Chamber of Commerce

Cllr Ludovino drew members' attention to Wells Christmas Shopping evening Thursday 3rd December and Small Business Saturday 5th December.

15/136C WELLS CARNIVAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

To appoint Cllr Brandon as the Wells City Council representative:
RESOLVED

15/137C MENDIP HILLS AONB NOMINATION

To nominate Cllr Briton to stand for election as parish council representative on the Mendip Hills AONB Partnership
RESOLVED

15/138C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Price attended the renaming of the restored City of Wells steam engine and presented a plaque on behalf of the council and city of Wells.
- ii. Cllr Wride: parking at rear of Town Hall would be commented on another time
- iii. Cllr Kennedy: noted that no press representative was present and important public matters had been raised at this meeting
- iv. Cllr Gibson thanked Jenbee, the Open Spaces team, Cllr Wride, and all who had helped with putting up the Christmas lights.
- v. Council noted Robin White would be stepping down as Chair of the British Legion; the Mayor was asked to ensure he is thanked for all he has done in this capacity.

15/139C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at **7.00pm** on **Thursday 17th December 2015:**
Setting of the Precept for 2016-17