

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 22ND JUNE 2017 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon; A Gibson; N Kennedy; R MacKenzie;
J North (The Mayor); C Price; T Robbins; D Swain; D Unwin; G Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
Mace-Bearer: J Rood
Chaplain: A Glanville
Somerset County Cllr: T Munt
PC D Pearson, Avon & Somerset Police
2 members of the public.

17/82C CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced the standard emergency evacuation procedures. He requested that mobile phones and other devices be set on silent or turned off. Anyone intending to record any part of the meeting was asked to declare this.

17/83C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: R Ayres; C Cox; J Osman; H Siggs; C Wride (Deputy Mayor)

17/84C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012: None declared.
Members were reminded to return their up-dated registrations of interests.

**17/85C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
20TH AND 25TH MAY 2017:**

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

17/86C CASUAL VACANCY

To declare a casual vacancy in the St Cuthbert Ward. The Town Clerk and the Mayor explained the procedure.

17/87C POLICE REPORT

To receive a report from Avon and Somerset Police.
PC Pearson gave an incident report and up-date on recent anti-social behaviour and public order offences. These are being followed up. CCTV images are being released.

17/88C PRESENTATION

Mr S Ladyman, Chairman, Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.
Mr Ladyman outlined the situation to date and the need for change in order to address the gap between increasing demand and continued funding. He spoke about the Sustainable Transformation Program in Somerset and plans for shared delivery of services. He answered many questions from Councillors and there was a lengthy discussion. The aim for the future should be to improve local service delivery; the City Council welcomed the offer to be involved in future consultation concerning this significant matter for Wells.

17/89C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr Ray Bennett reminded the council that the 100th anniversary of the battles at Passchendaele occurs in July; Harry Patch was there and he died in Wells on 25th July 2009. The British Legion would welcome suggestions for an appropriate act of commemoration; members were in support of this and the Town Clerk will help to coordinate if required.

17/90C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. The Mayor thanked members for their support and attendance at the funeral of Cllr Briton; this had been a profoundly moving experience, he particularly commended the eulogy given by Chris' son; members concurred with these comments.
- ii. The Cathedral Administrator, Paul Richards, will be retiring on 30th June, the Mayor has written to him.
- iii. A group of 47 visitors from the German twin town of Bad Durkheim were hosted in the Town Hall together with the Town Twinning Association. The Mayor and Town Clerk also met with both twinning committees' representatives in the Mayor's Parlour. The Chairman of Wells Twinning Association will speak to the City Council meeting in July. The Mayor has invited the Burgermeister to join him at the Wells Carnival in November.
- iv. The Mayor reported on various events attended and thanked the organisers.
- v. Members were minded to have some memorial to Cllr Briton, suggestions were made and the matter was passed to Cllr Gibson, Chairman of the City Centre and Open Spaces Committee.

17/91C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2017:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

Ref 17/25ii and iii, 17/27ii. The Chairman asked members to note the Town Clerk was asked to look into the increase in workloads in preparation for the September meeting. The committee will also be taking into consideration the changes due to the national living wage.

17/92C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 1st and 15th June 2017:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

Cllr Price reported from a meeting held with the Principle Planning Policy Officer, Mendip District Council, to help identify the current position and make a forward plan. The City Council will be engaging with consultation on the site allocations for the Mendip Local Plan. There is some background work to move forward for the Neighbourhood Plan but for Wells the primary aims will depend on the outcomes of the Local Plan.

17/93C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2017:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

Cllr Swain reported a meeting has been held with Cllr Ham and the MDC Officer regarding the possible 'Changing Rooms' project; a site meeting is being arranged with the user group.

17/94C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. Somerset County Council
Cllr Munt reported on a high level of concern from residents regarding the planning applications for telecoms masts at Strawberry Way and at Bath Road. She is looking into the planning regulations and the position of SCC as the (presumed) landowner of both sites.
In answer to questions relating to the 67 bus route, Cllr Munt confirmed she is not aware of any SCC funding for a local community bus service. She felt there was scope for adjusting the time table and frequency of the service currently running.
- ii. Wells Recreation Ground Trust
Cllr Robbins reported there will be a meeting shortly to assess the work of the Project Manager.

iii. 67 Bus Route

Cllr Price reported there would be a meeting on 23rd June with SCC, at which it was expected more information and figures would be made available.

17/95C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Blocked drains in Queens St – to be reported
- ii. Trees, trimming required– to be reported
- iii. The Mayor reported that the representatives from Bad Durkheim had asked that the 30th Year commemorative stone in the Mayor's Parlour, be placed in a public open space where people could see it. This matter was referred to the City Centre & Open Spaces Committee.

17/96C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be at **7pm on Thursday 27th July 2017**

Note: No meeting in August