

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: R Ayres; M Brandon; C Cox; Mr R Greenwell; N Kennedy, R MacKenzie; J North (The Mayor); J Osman; C Price; T Robbins; H Siggs; D Swain; D Unwin; C Wride (Deputy Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
Chaplain: A Glanville
Mace Bearer J Rood
Somerset County Cllr. T Munt
PC Pearson & PCSO Searle, Somerset and Avon Police
1 member of the public

17/127C CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor and Council congratulated Cllr Alison Gibson and RFO Steve Luck on the birth of their daughter.

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.

17/128C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: A Gibson; G Wilson
RFO: S Luck

17/129C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

17/130C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2017:

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

17/131C POLICE REPORT

To receive a report from Avon and Somerset Police:
PC Pearson reported on progress with recent investigations; identifications had been made from CCTV images resulting in some arrests.

17/132C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

17/133C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. 11am Saturday 11th November, Wells Market Place: Act of Remembrance.
- ii. 10.15am Sunday 12th November, St Cuthbert's Church: Remembrance Day Service & Parade.
- iii. Friday 17th November: Wells Carnival
- iv. 17th – 19th November: visit of twin-town Mayor; the Burgermeister and his family, from Bad Durkheim, Germany.
- v. Wells Christmas Market 20th - 23rd December.

17/134C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2017 with minutes of the City & Tourism Forum held 7th September 2017:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

It was noted that feedback from the DCLG indicated that the smaller cities did not fit the bid criteria.

Members reported on the Christmas Market.

17/135C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 19th October 2017:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

17/136C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2017.
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
To receive the annual report from the external auditor on accounting and governance.
Council received the annual audit report, noting that there were no actions required.
The Mayor thanked the staff for all their hard work, particularly the Town Clerk and RFO, for this superb result once again, showing that the council has such good governance.

17/137C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES & CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2017:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions. He drew members attention to 17/29A, inviting recommendations for the Civic Review to be sent to the Chairman or the Town Clerk before the next meeting of the committee in January.

17/138C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust
Cllr Wride reported matters are progressing and there is to be a public meeting on 5th December. A series of events at the Bishops Barn is being planned.
Cllr Robbins gave an up-date on the Mosaic: a very constructive meeting has been held with MDC Officers and the project is moving forward.
- ii. Somerset County Council
Cllr Munt gave her report (copy supplied), answered questions, and received comments. Noted for action:
 - Damage to traffic barrier railings at the bottom of Wookey Hole Road
 - Debris from recent works in St Andrew's stream
 - Re-surfacing for Guardhouse Lane
 - Cycle routes through the city, work by the Strawberry Line group
- iii. Mendip District Council
Cllr Siggs commented on the half-yearly report from the Somerset Rivers Authority, encouraging members to read it. He reported on a housing project in Pilton.
Cllr MacKenzie spoke about the SRA in relation to flash-flooding.
- iv. Wells Almshouses
Cllr Unwin reported on plans and developments.

17/139C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. The Mayor: Members were asked to note the up-dated calendar of meetings.
- ii. Cllr. Wride: The Great British Spring Clean 2018 - referred to the City Centre & Open Spaces Committee.
- iii. Cllr. Price: News from former Cllr. Mary Blundell.
- iv. Cllr. Kennedy: The Mayor was asked to write on behalf of the Council, thanking the organisers of the Food Festival and the Literature Festival.

17/140C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be at **7pm on Thursday 23rd November 2017**