

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 22ND MARCH 2018 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: : R Ayres, M Brandon; A Gibson; R Greenwell; N Kennedy;
J North (Mayor); C Price; T Robbins; H Siggs; D Swain; D Unwin; G Wilson;
C Wride (Deputy Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
Mace Bearer: J Rood; Mayor's Chaplain: A Glanville; RFO: S Luck
Somerset County Cllr. T Munt
13 members of the public, 3 pupils from Wells Blue School
1 member of the press

18/31C CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

18/32C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: C Cox; R MacKenzie; J Osman

18/33C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

18/34C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON

22ND FEBRUARY 2018: Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

18/35C POLICE REPORT

To receive a report from Avon and Somerset Police: None received.

18/36C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- i. Pupils from Wells Blue School gave an outstanding presentation about their project 'Plastic Soup'. They spoke about the effects of plastics on sea-life; single-use plastics; and recycling. The Blue School has agreed to put various measures in place, campaign to change attitudes and reduce littering.
The pupils were thanked for attending and received a rousing round of applause for their excellent speaking.
- ii. Laura, representing Wells WI, spoke about going plastic-free; supporting the campaign aligns with national WI aims; Council support would help in their partnership work.
- iii. Tom, for 'Plastic-free Wells', spoke about the work of the Steering Group, giving facts and figures on single-use plastics; there are alternatives for all the most frequently-used items.
- iv. Cllr Munt reported that the Wells Chamber of Commerce & Tourism has voted to support the motion.

Due to the level of public interest, it was decided to change the order on the Agenda; the Mayor took this Motion next:

18/37C 'PLASTIC-FREE' WELLS Motion from Cllr Ayres:

Cllr Ayres presented the proposal (attached); Members all contributed positive comments, congratulating the Blue School pupils on their achievements. The Mayor spoke about the importance of appropriate packaging, and of recycling.

This was clearly an 'in principle' motion and as such had full support. The motion was seconded by Cllr Wilson and unanimously agreed. Cllr Ayres was proposed, seconded and appointed as the Wells City Council representative to the 'Plastic-Free Wells' Steering Group.

18/38C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked all those who had attended the Annual Parish meeting, and recent Charity event. He announced forthcoming events.

- i. Council Civic Dinner Friday: 13th April
- ii. Mayor Making: 3pm Saturday 19th May
- iii. Mayor's Charity events: 31st March Choir Concert, Town Hall; April: Wells City Band Concert; Blues Brothers at The Swan.

18/39C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

1. To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2018:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
2. Bank Signing Mandate (MINUTE 18/29F FINANCE REPORT)
RECOMMENDED to add Cllrs J North and C Wride to the Council's Bank Signing Mandate:
Proposed, seconded and resolved.
3. Standing Orders: SO3r.i. (MINUTE 18/32Fi. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS)
RECOMMENDED That the Town Clerk, Chairman and Deputy Mayor together, look at how Council's Committees are formed and report back; and that Standing Order 3ri. be revoked.
Proposed, seconded and resolved.

18/40C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2018:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

18/41C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 15th February 2018:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

18/42C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. Somerset County Council
Cllr. Munt gave her monthly report (copy available), and answered questions. The Libraries Consultation has been extended to June; there are no changes proposed for the Wells library. Replacement parking restrictions signs for St John Street have been ordered. Members requested better dialogue with the different Councils.
- ii. Mendip District Council
Cllr Siggs reported excellent outcomes of partnership working with the City Council on projects such as the bus station enhancements and the 'Changing Places'.
MDC works closely with HMRC to support vulnerable residents.
- iii. Bus Route 67
Cllr Price reported from a recent meeting called by Somerset County Council, and answered questions. Information supplied at that meeting had since been sent out to Councillors.
Cllr Robbins referred to the City Council's proposal to give £1,000 on certain conditions; he suggested this could be paid. There was general agreement that the conditions had been answered sufficiently.

The question of expenditure on the project for 2018-19 was referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.
Cllr Price was thanked for his hard work and dedication in this very difficult role.
Cllr Robbins emphasised the gratitude of the Council to Cllr Price and appreciation of the difficulty in obtaining information.

18/43C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Wilson reported on a forthcoming exchange visit with Naumburg Cathedral; the Mayor will host the visiting group on Saturday 12th May, at the Town Hall, assisted by the Archivist.

18/44C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next being will be held at **7.00pm on Thursday 26th April 2018**

18/37C 'PLASTIC-FREE' WELLS

Motion: That Wells City Council will –

1. Agree with the general principles of the 'Plastic-Free' scheme namely to:
 - lead by example to remove single-use plastic items from Council premises.
 - encourage plastic free initiatives, promote the campaign and support events.
2. Change its own practices by removing single-use plastics.
3. Cease to use or to permit the use of single-use plastics in properties and open spaces under the management of the Council.
4. Seek to minimise the use of single use plastics in any future contracts.
5. Appoint a named Member of the Council to the Plastic-Free Wells Steering Group.