

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: R Ayres, C Cox, R Greenwell, N Kennedy, C McKinnell, J North, C Price, T Robbins, H Siggs, D Swain, Cllr J Osman (Deputy Mayor), G Wilson, P Welch, C Wride (The Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
Mace Bearer: J Rood
County Cllr. T Munt
9 members of the public

19/15C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from:
Cllrs: M Brandon, R MacKenzie.

19/16C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

19/17C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON

31ST JANUARY 2019: Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

19/18C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Members of the public addressed the Council on these matters:

- i. Mr Cooke: Question on the future of local government.
- ii. Mr Powell, Chairman, Wells Chamber of Commerce: the importance of the city-centre post office to the businesses and residents of Wells.
- iii. Mr Lawder: A public meeting about parking in Wells; his report of the meeting had been sent to all Council members; he asked for responses.

19/19C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Wednesday 13th March 6pm: Annual Parish Meeting
- ii. Sunday 24th March: The Legal Service, 11.30am Wells Cathedral
- iii. Annual Council Dinner: 19th April
- iv. Civic Award Ceremony, 22nd February – The Mayor thanked everyone who attended; she particularly thanked Cllr and Mrs Price and the Archivist, Dr Julia Wood, for their hard work in organising the event.

19/20C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2019:
Cllr Swain presented the minutes and invited questions.

19/21C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 7th February 2019:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

19/22C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES & CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2019:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions; he also drew members' attention to the Council Award; Mr Tony Scrase and the Museum volunteers had very much appreciated the event.

19/23C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES
Cllr Price reported from a recent meeting of the Community Bus Route group.
Information has been forwarded to all Councillors.

19/24C REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Mendip District Council

Cllr Siggs gave a detailed report of the work of the district council. He commented on the matter of parking in Wells.

Mr Lawder left the room; he made an abusive personal comment, using obscene language, directed at Cllr Siggs.

Council noted this unacceptable behaviour. It was agreed to write to Mr Lawder asking him to return to the next Council meeting to apologise.

ii. Somerset County Council

Cllr Munt spoke about the financial situation and budgets at SCC.

An initial meeting about parking in Wells will be held by SCC Highways with local Councillors, followed by a wider consultation.

19/25C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

i. Cllr Welch: Gave an apology and will speak to Mr Lawder about his unacceptable behaviour in the Council meeting.

ii. Cllr Welch: Asked for clarification regarding the Post Office – The Mayor replied; the Post Office have said that the Market Place service will close at the end of September, they hope to keep a smaller counter service; the Council continues to work with them to find a City centre solution.

iii. Cllr North: Queried the wording of the single-use-plastics notice at the Town Hall; Cllr Ayres explained that this is advisory.

iv. Cllr Robbins: Congratulated The Mayor on organising a second Charity Quiz, again very successful.

19/26C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will take place at:

7.00pm on Thursday 28th March 2019 in the Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall.