

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WELLS RECREATION GROUND TRUST COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 12TH MAY 2021 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: S Cursley, O Hartley (Deputy Mayor), R Humphreys,
N Kennedy, P Welch (Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
WCC staff: S Glendinning, A Westwood
5 members of the public

21/01RGT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: S Briton, J Osman

21/02RGT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012:

Councillors were asked whether they had any declarations of interest.

Cllr Cursley stated an interest in 21/05RGT, Wells Rotary Club.

21/03RGT ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Cursley nominated Cllr Welch (The Mayor) as Chair. There were no other nominations. After a vote it was proposed, seconded and agreed.

Cllr Humphreys proposed Cllr Cursley at Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. After a vote it was proposed, seconded and agreed.

21/04RGT MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Nobody chose to speak.

21/05RGT PRESENTATION FROM WELLS ROTARY CLUB

"Garden of Reflection"

Alan Webb gave an outline on the proposal which has already been presented to Full Council on 25th March. The Garden would be an area of reflection and renewal for any of the public to freely visit. A professional garden design team have been consulted who have had experience with designing hospice gardens. The proposal is for the garden to be situated near the Bishop's Barn. Cllrs Hartley and Humphreys both gave their support to the proposal, additional discussion is required to decide on location, maintenance, etc.

Nigel Fraser felt the barn usage needed to be established before any location for the garden could be decided.

21/06RGT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Town Clerk reminded those present that this was a Management Committee working on behalf of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust. Every Councillor would be a trustee, managing the ground on behalf of the trust. A solicitor has been appointed and we have asked for the transfer to be made by the end of June but this deadline depends on MDC cooperation. The funding of the trust will run

independently from the City Council. Funds will be drawn from the precept and the trust will provide separate accounts, made public, on a quarterly basis.

After discussion, the following was proposed:

- the Management Committee would be made up of 8 Councillors.
- it would have formal quarterly meetings.
- informal monthly meetings with public attendance would be held in the Barn or the Town Hall. The frequency of these meetings to be reviewed as the project progresses.

This was proposed, seconded and agreed.

21/07RGT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

MDC have already obtained Public Consultation research via independent companies in 2014, 2016 and 2018. The reports on these findings are held on the MDC website, search 'Wells Recreation Ground including The Bishops Barn'. Councillors were encouraged to read these.

It was felt unnecessary to obtain a further independent report but WCC would carry out their own public consultation. Alan Webb commented that he would like to get involved in this process.

Cllr Cursley suggested that once WCC obtain ownership, we should celebrate the occasion in some way with the public.

It was proposed the next meeting, scheduled for Weds 9th June at 6pm, would be an informal open meeting held at the Bishop's Barn with the public invited through social media, Wells Voice, etc. To monitor attendee numbers, due to COVID regulations and social distancing, public to register their attendance in advance.

21/08RGT DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITIES

To delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to decide any urgent matters arising before the next meeting. Agreed.

21/09RGT ANY OTHER MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Jane Truman (member of the public) asked if the Bishop's Barn had any rules and regulations over any changes to it. The Town Clerk confirmed the Barn was Grade 1 listed and heritage approval was required.

21/10RGT DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

6:00 pm, Wednesday 9th June 2021

This will be an informal meeting held in The Bishop's Barn with public attendance to share ideas. Members of public to register their attendance in advance by contacting reception@wells.gov.uk or Tel: 01749 673091

Minutes signed by The Chair: Date: