



WELLS CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL SUMMONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL, WHICH MEMBERS ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND, WILL BE HELD IN WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 2022 AT 7.00PM

Please note this meeting will be recorded for the purpose of minute-taking.

Steve Luck
Town Clerk

Town Hall, Market Place
Wells BA5 2RB
01749 673091
e-mail: townclerk@wells.gov.uk

21st April 2022

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012.
- 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 24TH MARCH 2022**
To be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.
- 4 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Mayor.
- 5 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Update on Mayor's Charity

Mayor's Diary

30th Apr Mayor's Charity Fundraising Concert, Wells Town Hall
1st May Mayor greets 300-Harley Davidson motorcycle ride through Wells
2nd May Jazz Collective concert for Mayor's Charity, Wells Market Place
2nd May Civic Night, Wells Little Theatre
7th May Opening of Wells May Fair, Market Place
8th May Somerset Day Evensong, Wells Cathedral
10th May Open Coffee Morning, Heads Up

- 6 RETIREMENT PRESENTATION TO DR JULIA WOOD**
- 7 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2022 (to follow)
- 8 MINUTES OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2022 (attached by email)
- 9 UNITARY AND ACQUISITIONS**
To receive an update from the Town Clerk.
- 10 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS**
To receive draft diary.
- 11 TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
 - Wells Sports Club - Report from Cllr S Johns (attached below)
- 12 TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
To follow
- 13 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**
- 14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting of Wells City Council will be Thursday 12th May 2022, 7pm

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it will be proposed by the Mayor that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended.

Circulation List:

Town Clerk/RFO	Wells City Council website	Wells Chamber of Commerce
Open Spaces Manager	WCC Internal Auditor	Wells Civic Society
Serjeants-at-Mace	Wells Journal & Wells Voice	Wells Visitor Information
Mayor's Chaplain	Mendip District Council	The Bishop's Palace
Town Crier	Wells Police Station	Wells Cathedral
Wells City Council members	District Councillors	County Councillor

Agenda Item 11

Report to Wells City Council on The Wells Sports Club

Unfortunately, the club is facing a big problem with the rates that it pays. Mendip District Council has turned round and said that the club is no longer eligible for 100% rate relief due to the rifles club coming under the sports club lease which means that the club technically has two properties. This would mean that the football club alone, which trains 325 players under the age of 16 and has 40 voluntary coaches, would have pay £11,124 a year. In total the whole club would be paying £15,033 every year. It is possible to claim 50% rate relief but the district council has not yet confirmed this.

Understandably the committee was not happy with this change and were very concerned on how they were supposed to pay this. The committee decided to seek legal advice on this and £1000 will be put aside to cover the cost in the first instance. They also agreed to contact Cllr Pullin about this. The slight good news is that the council will be aiming to take on the freehold of the club post unitary which would only mean we will be collecting the rent and not have any say over the rates but the amount paid in rent is also substantial, the football club alone pays £8539 in rent. Perhaps the council could offer rent relief as a way to help the club if the rates continue as they are.

The club has decided to expand its car park to add another 24 parking spaces including 3 disabled spaces. This will be at the expense of the junior football pitch. What type of surface they use for it will very much depend on the budget.

The Mayor has approached the clubs and asked if they would like to give some demonstrations for the jubilee celebrations in June. The committee agreed that it would be better to do such things on the sports ground instead of the recreation grounds for safety and legal reasons. For example the rifles club is only licensed to shoot in the club and it would cost a lot of money to get the licence to do it somewhere else. The jubilee also comes on the weekend before the club hosts a junior football tournament and it's a lot to ask for volunteers to give up two consecutive weekends to help first with the jubilee and then the tournament; so the answer to the request from the mayor looks like it will be a no.

Cllr Sebastian Johns
Apr 2022