

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2019 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani, P Crummay, S Cursley, G Dickson, A Fawcett, O Hartley, A l'Anson, N Kennedy, J Linsdell, J Osman (Mayor), T Robbins, J Rust, P Welch (Deputy Mayor), C Wride

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Town Clerk/RFO: S Luck
Office Manager : Sandy Bristow
Town Hall Manager : Kevin Westwood
Mace Bearer: M Goody
County Cllr T Munt
42 members of the public

19/55C ELECTION OF MAYOR

The outgoing Mayor Cllr Wride called for nominations for the new Mayor. Cllr Robbins nominated Cllr John Osman, seconded by Cllr Kennedy. There were no further nominations and Cllr John Osman was unanimously elected.

Cllr Wride declared the election of the 646th Mayor of Wells and invested Cllr Osman. The new Mayor Cllr Osman swore the Oath of Allegiance to her Majesty the Queen. The Mayors left the room to exchange the chain.

The Mayor Cllr Osman returned and took the Chair.

The Mayor thanked his fellow councillors for his election and also congratulated Cllr Wride on her successful year as Mayor.

During the coming year The Mayor hoped to hold public debates in the Town Hall about current issues and invite the public, officers of other councils, specialists to come and discuss possible solutions.

He planned to hold monthly coffee mornings in the Mayors parlour so he can meet the public and talk about any concerns they have.

The Mayor's Charity for the year will be The Forget Me Not Suite at the Royal United Hospital (RUH), Bath.

The Mayors Chaplain for the year will be Mr Alistair Glanvile.

The Civic Mayor making ceremony will be on Saturday June 29th; details to be confirmed.

19/56C ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor called for nominations.

Cllr Osman proposed Cllr Welch and was seconded by Cllr Cursley. No other nominations were received so Cllr Welch was elected Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Welch thanked his fellow councillors and looked forward to supporting the Mayor during the coming year.

19/57C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Town Clerk, F White.

Cllrs C Rees; S Briton.

19/58C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

19/59C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON

25TH APRIL 2019: Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

19/60C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Four members of the public wished to speak:

1. Members were asked to request more details be included in the minutes of all meetings so the public could better understand what had happened during the meetings. An example of the recent Staffing committee was given but Cllr Kennedy explained this was one committee where items discussed had to remain confidential.
2. The Civic Society thanked Cllr Wride for her year as Mayor and requested the Tourism Forum work be continued as it had been so successful.
3. Members were requested to invite the Police Commissioner to attend a future meeting of the Council to give an update on Wells Police Station. Also a query about standing orders was answered by the Acting Clerk.
4. Members were requested to consider live streaming of Council meetings, again to keep the general public informed of decisions made by the council.

19/61C TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

- i. Finance and General Purposes Committee
- ii. Planning Committee
- iii. City Centre and Open Spaces Committee
- iv. Archives and Civic Assets Committee
- v. Staffing Committee
- vi. Wells in Bloom sub committee
- vii. Tourism Forum

Members were appointed and Chairmen selected, as shown on the attached list. Committee vacancies will be offered to absent members, then if not filled be brought back to the next full Council meeting.

Members discussed the formation of a new Climate Change committee and reaffirm the commitment given by the last council. After various options were discussed it was proposed by Cllr Agabani and agreed this would be done at the next Council meeting. This will allow time for discussions regarding the type of committee, its membership and schedule of meetings to take place.

19/62C TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS AND OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- i. To resolve that the Finance and General Purposes Committee shall review for presentation to Council in the coming year:
 - Standing Orders
 - Financial Regulations
 - Committees' terms of reference and related matters
 - Ensure that all annual reviews required under Standing Order 5j are completed.
 - **RESOLVED**

- ii. To note the Council's calendar of meetings and engagements for 2019 – 2020
APPROVED subject to confirmation of committee dates by the newly appointed Chairmen.

19/63C TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

All appointments were approved as shown on the attached list.

19/64C MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CITY MEETING

Minutes of the Annual City Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2019 were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

NOTED

19/65C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

1. Cllr Welch brought to the attention of members a recent press release from Somerset County Council about the new Unitary council proposals.
2. Cllr Robbins requested that a formal invitation to attend a meeting be sent to the Police Commissioner.
3. Cllr l'Anson requested that the members start work again on the Neighbourhood Plan.
4. Cllr Kennedy gave a vote of thanks to all Councillors who had retired and those that had not been returned. Many had given years of dedicated service to the council and he asked for it to be recognised.

19/66C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be at **7pm on Thursday 27th June 2019**