

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani, S Briton, P Crummay, S Cursley, A Fawcett,
O Hartley, A l'Anson, N Kennedy, J Linsdell, J Osman (Mayor), C Rees,
J Rust, P Welch (Deputy Mayor), C Wride

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk/RFO, S Luck
Mace Bearer: C Price
Chaplain: A Glanvile
County Cllr T Munt
MDC Cllrs; L Rogers, L Waters, T Ronan
6 members of the public

Before the meeting, The Mayor and Cllr Kennedy paid tribute to past Mayor Maureen Brandon who sadly passed away last week. Councillors stood in a minute's silence in her memory.

The Mayor thanked Tony Robbins for his 12 years of service to the Council following his recent resignation.

He also thanked everyone for all the good wishes and gifts he and the Mayoress had received following the birth of Amelia and Alex.

PRAYERS

Prayers were conducted by the Mayor's Chaplain, A Glanvile, following which the Chaplain was excused from the meeting.

19/139C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr G Dickson

19/140C DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012:
None Declared.

**19/141C MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
24TH OCTOBER 2019**
Cllrs Rust and l'Anson requested changes to the minutes which were agreed then the minutes of the previous meeting were amended then proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

19/142C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
A member of the public spoke about her concerns for any future installation of a 5G network and detailed possible health issues. She was advised a precautionary principle was being considered later in the agenda.

19/143C POLICE REPORT
No police present nor report received.

19/144C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- i. Councillor vacancy. Election 7th February 2020
- ii. Mid-Somerset Carol Concert, Wells Cathedral, Thur 12th December, 7pm
- iii. Coffee morning 7th December, Mayor's Parlour, 9.30am - 12 noon, also unveiling of the Memorial Clock plaque at 10.00am.

19/145C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 7th and 21st November 2019:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
Cllr Kennedy highlighted the felling of trees on the Travis Perkins site.

Recommend to adopt Precautionary Principle

“This Council has a responsibility to protect the public and environment from exposure to harm, albeit unpredictable in the current state of scientific knowledge, and therefore opposes the roll-out of 5G in the Parish of Wells City Council – based on the precautionary principle – until further information is revealed.”

The Precautionary Principle was proposed, seconded and adopted.

19/146C MINUTES OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 19th November 2019:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
Cllr Briton raised the need for the committee to update its procedures and suggested this could be done by a working party and she would consult the Town Clerk.

19/147C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2019:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
Cllr Rust congratulated the committee on a well-considered meeting.

19/148C MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 21st November 2019:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

19/149C PROPOSED REVIEW OF WCC COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Cllr Agabani presented a proposal to review the Council’s committee structure.
It was agreed to include the discussion in the 4year plan meeting to be held in January but it was emphasised any decisions have to be made by Full Council in an open meeting.

19/150C TOURISM FORUM

To consider Visit Wells Steering Group’s request to disband the Tourism Forum.
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to disband the Tourism Forum in its present form and nominate 2 members to represent the Council on the new Heritage Partners steering group.
Cllrs Agabani and Fawcett were agreed as representatives.

19/151C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

1. Cllr Linsdell reported on Future Fairtrade Wells meetings.
2. Cllr Wride expressed her concern the Wells Recreation Ground Trust meeting at MDC had been cancelled for a third time.
3. Cllr Wride reported on a successful fund raising event held at the Wells Almshouses.
4. Cllr Briton reported on Sustainable Wells and future diary on events including a party on December 9th.
5. Cllr l’Anson presented his written report on the recent SALC meeting and highlighted an excellent presentation given by the Waste Partnership, he suggested it would be informative to invite them to a future Climate Emergency committee meeting.
6. Cllr Welch reported on the Elim Connect Centre and their installation of solar panels which should result in a 40% saving on utility costs.

SCC Cllr T Munt reported,

1. The SCC Climate Action Network meeting had been postponed until the New Year due to Purdah.
2. The Traffic management review had been delayed and she would update members at the next meeting.
3. SCC were working towards a balanced budget for the coming year with future borrowing options being considered to get best value.
4. SCC were planning a meeting to discuss 5G network.
5. Recent Educational inspection reports received highlighted many problems.

Cllr Wride asked about problems with traffic and parking in Southover. This had been reported.

Cllr Osman (The Mayor) asked if County had responded to the Educational reports received. Cllr Munt confirmed they had not yet responded.

Cllr Rees also highlighted the poor provision for special needs children in the County.

MDC Cllr L Waters reported,

Due to Purdah she was unable to report much about MDC.

She was asked by Cllr Wride and the Mayor to follow up on the Wells Recreation Ground Trust meetings and why they keep getting cancelled by MDC.

Cllr l'Anson highlighted recent communications with MDC about Idling engines in Sadler Street and was assured this was raised at a recent meeting and options were being considered to help solve the problem.

19/152C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Welch suggested the need for a public meeting on future 5G provision so a balanced view could be presented. It was agreed he would look at options.

Cllr Linsdell expressed her concern over the Council's inability to stop trees without preservation orders being felled in the City. Cllr Briton reported she had sent the report about Trees on the Levels to the Town Clerk for circulation.

Cllr Fawcett promoted the launch after the meeting of a new book about the City Arms written by Claire Blackmore.

The Mayor promoted his Grand Christmas Draw tickets in aid of the Mayor's Charity and invited everyone to buy tickets after the meeting.

19/153C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be at **7pm on Thursday 19th December 2019**