

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WELLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6.00PM

Written reports can be viewed on the Agendas

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani (Deputy Mayor), J Browne (Mayor), S Cursley, D Denis, S Eden, D Orrett, S Powell, G Robbins, H Siggs, I Von Mensenkampff, P Welch

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
RFO: C Woodland
Devolution Officer: H Wilkins
Facilities & Projects Officer: L Wassell
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
Mace Bearer: G Woodland
Press: A Vallis
2 members of the public, including the Mayor's Consort

24/114/C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: T Butt Philip, G Folkard, N Kennedy, T Pullin, T Robbins

SC Cllr and MP for Wells and Mendip Hills: T Munt

24/115/C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.

None declared.

24/116/C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH JULY 2024

Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

24/117/C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Nobody wished to speak.

24/118/C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wells Remembrance Service and Parade, Sunday 10th November
- Remembrance Day, Monday 11th November, 11am, Conduit in Market Place
- Wells City Charter Fair, Wednesday 13th until Saturday 16th November
- Wells City Carnival, Friday 15th November

Mayor's Diary

- 27th Sept Afternoon Tea for Spinathon Auction Winner, Mayor's Parlour
- 28th Sept High Sheriff's Reception, Taunton, Deputy Mayor attending
- 29th Sept Great Wells Sedan Chair Steeplechase, Wells & Recreation Ground
- 30th Sept Book Launch, Lavinia Byrne & Jane McBride, Heritage Courtyard
- 4th - 6th Oct Visit to Kluczbork, Poland
- 4th Oct Wells in Bloom Awards, Wells Town Hall, Deputy Mayor attending
- 5th Oct Wells SOUP!, Connect Centre, Deputy Mayor attending
- 10th Oct 1955 Air Cadets Annual Awards Evening, Draycott Memorial Hall
- 11th Oct WEN Eco Week Launch event, Cedars Hall
- 13th Oct Wells Food Festival
- 16th Oct Almshouses Board Meeting
- 16th Oct 'Animal Magic' Symphony Orchestra Concert, Cedars Hall
- 19th Oct Strode College Graduation Ceremony, Wells Cathedral
- 19th Oct Festival of Literature – John O'Farrell
- 22nd Oct Festival of Literature – Vernon Bogdanor
- 23rd Oct Festival of Literature Lunch & Talk with Jonathan Dimpleby

Mayor's Charity Concert, raising funds for 5th/7th City of Wells Scouts,
23rd November 2024, 7:30pm in Wells Town Hall

24/119/C COUNCIL DIARY

The Town Clerk explained extra Staffing meetings have been added for every month up until May 2025 with the exception of December, in order to react to resource as a result of the devolution process. The new diary was approved.

24/120/C OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE (Bishop's Barn and Recreation Ground)

Cllr D Orrett (Acting Chair) presented the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2024.

24/71/OSE Cllr Powell asked for an amendment. Tree work is to be carried out within three years.

24/74/OSE Cllr Denis asked whether the resolution tracker had been received from Cllr Knickerbocker. This will be provided.

There are currently two Chairs for this committee, Cllrs Welch and Orrett. Each chair a meeting bi-monthly and a split in Outside Spaces & Estates topics are discussed as follows:

Cllr Welch – Bishop's Barn and Recreation Ground

Cllr Orrett – Outside Spaces, Wells in Bloom, Portway Annexe

Cllr Orrett enquired whether outstanding items can be discussed in the following meeting without having to wait the two months. The Town Clerk confirmed they could not be included as an agenda item and voted on, but an update can be provided in 'Any Other Business'.

24/121/C FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Cllr S Cursley (Chair) presented the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2024.

24/87/FCM The Town Clerk informed the committee, the request to review 'The Protocol for Councillors and Staff' document should be taken to the Staffing Committee not Finance and Council Matters.

24/122/C PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr D Denis (Chair) presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15th August 2024 and 19th September 2024.

Vice-Chair of this committee should be amended to Cllr G Robbins. The Mayor thanked Cllr Powell for her time as Vice-Chair.

Cllr Denis stated that only 3 members attended the September meeting. As a result of 'Declarations of Interest' on some applications, the meeting was not quorate and therefore they were unable to be voted on. Councillors were reminded to attend meetings unless there is a vital reason for absence.

24/123/C TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

No reports were received

24/124/C TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

No written reports were received.

The Mayor read out a communication from Cllr T Butt Philip (Somerset Councillor for Wells). The Accessible Wells Group have asked for WCC to agree an appointment of two councillors to join the group. It was agreed for Cllr G Robbins to continue her involvement and she would be joined by Cllr Eden.

24/125/C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

The Mayor announced that the Town Clerk, Steve Luck, had formally written to his management committee and confirmed after 28 years he would be retiring on 31st May 2025. On behalf of Wells City Council, and in the absence of the Father of the Council, Cllr Siggs expressed thanks and gratitude for the long service he had provided.

Cllr Denis asked for clarification on the process for recruitment for a new Town Clerk. The process will be managed by the Town Clerk's management committee which is made up of The Mayor, both the Chair of Finance & Council Matters and Staffing Committee. This group would report to Full Council who have the right to discuss and vote on the selection process.

Cllr Denis provided leaflets for the Wen Ecoweek+ which is taking place week commencing 11th October, Councillors were asked to support and attend.

24/126/C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be **Thursday 24th October 2024, 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.

Minutes signed by The Mayor: **Date:**