

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE WELLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.00PM

Written reports can be viewed on the Agendas

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: S Luck  
RFO: C Woodland  
Devolution Officer: H Wilkins  
WCC Staff: S Glendinning  
Mace Bearer: C Price  
SCO Cllr: T Hathway  
5 members of the public

**24/145/C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: T Butt-Philip, S Eden, G Folkard, N Kennedy, T Pullin, G Robbins, P Welch

MP T Munt (Wells and Mendip Hills) / Somerset Unitary Councillor (Wells)

**24/146/C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

None declared.

**24/147/C MOSAIC PRESENTATION BY RUTH AMES-WHITE**

A presentation was made by Ruth Ames-White assisted by Chris Winter, both part of the Mosaic team. The Mosaic is now finished after nearly 10 years since the project first started. The Mosaic has taken 4½ years to complete. The project has been funded by local sponsorship, totalling £57,000 to date. The next stage is to agree a site for its location within the City. A further £35-40,000 is required for the installation to take place which is planned for Summer 2025. It is believed this will be a huge attraction for tourists/local schools. Cllr Siggs congratulated the Mosaic team on the completion of the project and he hopes it will get a prominent position within the City.

**24/148/C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE  
24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

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

**24/149/C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Nigel Clarke, Chief Marshall for Carnival spoke to provide some feedback:

Earlier in the year, the council had supported carnival members with providing funds for road closure training. This training has been put to good use, with not only supervising road closure at the carnival, but also in helping out at the Food Festival and assisting with tree cutting on the bypass towards Shepton Mallet. Somerset Council had quoted £16,000 to carry out the work, they had cut the trees for less than £400.

This year's Carnival event made £17,800 which was a 66% increase on last year.

Cllr Orrett asked who was responsible for litter picking after the carnival. Mr Clarke explained it should be the responsibility of the Carnival Clubs and he agreed to discuss this with them and improve for next year, particularly on the bypass towards Shepton Mallet.

Cllr Powell asked if signs relating to the carnival could be removed promptly after the event as there were a few still left on display. Mr Clarke agreed to follow this up.

#### **24/150/C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked everyone for their help and support at her Charity Concert which had taken place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the event had raised £2,700 for her chosen charity, 5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Wells Scout Group.

Invitation from the Mayor and her Consort to join them after the 19<sup>th</sup> December meeting for Christmas refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour. Members partners are also welcome.

With the help of Cllr G Robbins, the Mayor is organising a 'Christmas Gathering' between 12 noon and 2pm on Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>). This will be by invitation only, with the help of the WCN, local resident homes, U3A, Lawrence Centre etc. The Mayor asked members, if they were willing, to donate some mince pies. Cllr G Robbins is looking to source other food and drink from local business donations.

#### **Mayor's Diary**

- i. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov St Joseph and St Teresa's Bazaar, Wells Town Hall
- ii. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov Twinning 'Dinner with a Difference', St Thomas Church Hall
- iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec St Cuthbert Out Full Council Meeting, Dinder
- iv. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec Almshouses Christmas Lunch, Chamberlain Street
- v. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec St John Ambulance Presentation Evening, Wells Town Hall
- vi. 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 'The Armed Man' Concert, Wells Cathedral
- vii. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec Advent Carol Service, Wells Cathedral
- viii. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec Almshouses Carol Service, St Cuthbert;s Church
- ix. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec Wells Cathedral Prep School, Wells Cathedral
- x. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec WI Carol Festival, Wells Cathedral
- xi. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec Meeting with the Dean of Wells & Chief Operating Officer, Deans Lodging
- xii. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec The Crib Festival, St Cuthbert's Church
- xiii. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas with the Rifles, Taunton Minster
- xiv. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec Wells City band Christmas Concert, Cedars Hall
- xv. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec Wells Youth Club Christmas Celebration, Connect Centre
- xvi. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec Somerset Freemasons' Biennial Carol Service, Wells Cathedral
- xvii. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec Staff Christmas Gathering, Wells Town Hall

#### **24/151/C OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE (Outside Spaces, Wells in Bloom, Portway Annexe)**

Cllr Orrett presented the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

24/90/OSE Cllr Denis reported that a meeting had taken place with representatives from Wells Golf Club, Cathedral School, Wells City Councillors, St Cuthbert Out to alleviate flooding on Torr Hill Lane. They now need to find out who the landowners are in the Mendip Hills to progress a plan.

#### **24/152/C STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Cllr T Robbins presented the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Only two councillors had been present at the meeting, so the meeting was not quorate. No decisions were made.

#### **24/153/C FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE**

Cllr S Cursley presented the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024. No questions were received.

#### **24/154/C PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr D Denis presented the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024. There were no questions.

24/100/PE Q1 S106 monies. Cllr Denis highlighted that we would be wise to submit a delivery plan stating why we should be considered for S106 monies and suggested a

working party be formed. Members were asked to put their name forward to Cllr Denis before the next Planning meeting (5<sup>th</sup> December).

24/102/PE Local Plan Consultation. Cllr Denis advised only one response had been received and she had therefore put together the key items from the survey which she handed out to all members. She asked for any views/comments to be fed back to her (by 30<sup>th</sup> Nov) before she submits to Somerset Council.

**24/155/C ST CUTHBERT OUT PC & WCC WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Tony Hathway attended the meeting from St Cuthbert Out. He explained the suggestion of setting up a small working group for joint-working projects between them and Wells City Council. Cllrs Siggs, Denis, Orrett and Powell volunteered.

**24/156/C TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr G Robbins has resigned as Trustee for the Museum. Cllr T Robbins volunteered to replace her.

**24/157/C TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS.**

No report received.

**24/158/C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Agabani provided an update on a recent Skatepark meeting which had been attended by over 60 people in the Town Hall. The Town Clerk will be circulating the latest plans to all members and it will be included in the next Outside Spaces meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**24/159/C DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 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:** .....