

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY CENTRE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD IN WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021 AT 6.00PM

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: L Agabani (Chairman), A l'Anson, T Leach, S Powell, T Pullin

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Open Spaces Officer, M Culliford  
WCC Town Clerk/RFO: S Luck  
WCC Administration: J Franks (Minutes)  
Two member(s) of the public

**21/01CO APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr: J Browne

**21/02CO DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012. There were no Declarations of Interest.

**21/03CO ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr l'Anson proposed Cllr Powell. This was seconded, voted and agreed.

**21/04CO MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the City Centre & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.  
Meeting scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 was cancelled due to not being quorate.

**21/05CO MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- i. A member of public spoke about her concerns at the levels of rubbish in the town centre particularly the overflowing bins. Cllr Pullin reported members of the public are complaining of rubbish in the Recreation Ground, she will ask the Community Police to assist with this  
Further discussion on this matter took place under Item 21/34CO.
- ii. A member of the Wells Skateboard Community Group (Adrian Smith) presented a proposal for a new Skateboard Park for Wells. He requested WCC support the pre planning application by paying the fee of £125. The Committee agreed to allocate the £125. from the current budget.

**21/06CO WELLS CEMETERY**

- i. Biodiversity and tree planting update  
The Open Spaces Officer met Cllrs in Autumn 2020 to discuss making the cemetery more biodiverse and identifying areas for improvement. The 2021/22 budget has allocated £4,000 for this purpose. Mendip Trees and Landscapes have donated thirty -forty saplings, which have been planted on the Coronation road junction.  
The Open Spaces Officer invited all committee members to visit the cemetery and view the work in progress.
- ii. The Tree Survey for 2021 update and report (to follow)  
Several trees have been removed due to Ash Die Back and further trees with the disease have been identified and will require felling. A large proportion of the budget has been allocated to carry out this work.  
A new tree is planted each time a diseased tree is removed.  
The Tree Survey is due on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The Open Spaces Officer will distribute the Survey to the Committee members when received.

**21/07CO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

- i. 2021 Proposed Display  
Several new strings have been purchased for this year's display. All work carried out will be within the allocated budget.
- ii. Electrical Socket Boxes – Proposed Replacement Programme  
A programme of works is planned to upgrade and improve the electrical supply for the display.

**21/08CO ALLOTMENTS**

WCC has approximately sixty allotments over three sites and an over-subscribed waiting list. The sites are looking better than ever this year. £5,000 was spent on providing a water supply at one of the sites which has made a significant difference to the water needs of the allotment holders.

The Open Spaces Officer proposed to extend the existing water supply at the Burcott Road site. The cost of £600 is in the budget to cover the proposed work. Members agreed for this work to be carried out.

**21/09CO STREET FURNITURE**

- i. Market Street Bollards  
The red/white bollards have attracted a lot of negative feedback. Funds have been identified through central government. An £18,000 grant bid has been submitted to MDC to improve the Market Square.  
WCC will replace the existing bollards with attractive heritage design ones, with planters in-between. Bollards have to be strong, safe, light and removable. The bid has been approved in principle but to date, MDC has not confirmed final approval. The Town Clerk/RFO will continue to chase the grant.
- ii. Replacement Litter Bins for Market Place  
These will be replaced under funding allocated from the above scheme once the money has been approved and received.  
Cllr Powell spoke of the amount of bins which regularly overflow in Wells putting pressure on the barrowman. Collection is MDC 's responsibility; barrowman is employed by idVerde. Cllrs Agabani and Powell will meet with MDC Councillors to bring issues to the attention of the responsible Officer and to identify a solution to collection issues. The Open Spaces Officer recommended a barrowman be employed directly by WCC in the future if funding is available.
- iii. Cathedral Walk – 1 x litter bin and 2 x dog bins  
Two dog bins have been purchased and a large litter bin is on order; once this has been received, the Open Spaces Officer will bring all items to the Town Hall to be collected and fitted by idVerde.

**21/10CO WELLS IN BLOOM**

- i. Plant Out and Maintenance Work update  
This work was previously run by volunteers, during and after the pandemic lockdown, WCC Open Spaces team took on this responsibility. The committee commented that the displays are looking good and thanked the team for their hard work.
- ii. 2022 Watering Provision  
The current vehicle – used for watering purposes – is no longer fit for purpose. A new(er) vehicle, able to transport 2,000 litres of water, is needed; likely cost is £15,000-20,000. Committee voted and agreed this request should progress to the budget setting for consideration in the next financial year.

- iii. Market Place Enhancement  
The Market Square benches have been stripped down and re-painted.
- iv. Old Deanery Gardens Donation  
A £3,000 donation has been made which will be used to purchase new planters for the planned enhancement scheme.

**21/11CO NOTICEBOARD**

The committee were informed that a 12 x A4 sheet noticeboard was still in storage and available to be used on a future project when required.

**21/12CO ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

There were none.

**21/13CO DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (tbc)**

**Minutes signed by The Chair:** ..... **Date:** .....