

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2024 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: T Butt Philip, D Denis, S Eden, D Orrett (Chair), G Robbins, P Welch

**IN ATTENDANCE:** RFO: C Woodland  
WCC Staff: C Hobbs  
Devolution Officer: H Wilkins  
2 Members of the public

**24/76/OSE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
Cllrs: N Kennedy, S Powell

**24/77/OSE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Cllr D Denis declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 on the agenda

**24/78/OSE MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 (Outside Spaces, Wells in Bloom, Portway Annexe)**  
Cllr P Welch reported that he had met with representatives from the Bishop's Palace along with H Wilkins. There is a hope that the Bishop's Palace will propose a business plan which will go before Full Council meeting for approval.

Cllr D Denis referred to 24/62/OSE that the Leave it Longer campaign was proposed to be included on the Wells City Council's Facebook page and website, including the dates, and that this had not happened. C Woodland reported that staffing issues had precluded the work from being done but that now the situation was resolved, the work would take place.

C Woodland announced that there has been a member of staff taken on to support the Outside Spaces Team in an admin role.

Cllr D Orrett spoke about "quick fixes" that are relatively small jobs like litter picking, removal of stickers, painting bins which will improve the visual impact easily. Cllr D Orrett reported that the Wells barrowman role was vacant. (Idverde staff) and that this was contributing to there being an increase in litter. H Wilkins reported that the value of the barrowman role was in the devolution discussion.

**24/79/OSE MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Chair.

**24/80/OSE OUTSIDE SPACES**  
• Playground areas  
C Woodland updated the meeting that the repair of the broken swing has been scheduled. The parts for the repair of the other equipment are proving difficult to acquire but it is work in progress.  
C Woodland reported that the new admin member of staff on the Outside Spaces Team should expediate the acquisition of parts for the repair.  
The table tennis table has been ordered and will be installed within a couple of months.

**24/81/OSE****PORTWAY ANNEXE**

Cllr D Orrett reported that circumstances have seen the cancellation of recent Portway Annexe meetings and that the next meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024. There have been a lot of changes regarding staffing. L Webber works on a Monday, Thursday and Friday and L Wassell (Facilities and Projects Officer) is covering Tuesday and Wednesday.

L Wassell will be bringing a report to the next Portway Annexe meeting.

Cllr P Welch reported that ITV had visited the Portway Annexe and are in the process of showcasing the Portway annexe in an article.

A member of the public present reported that after cleaning windows at the Portway Annexe he had discovered that the paintwork at the Portway Annexe was of poor quality.

N Fraser mentioned that the secondary double glazing added to the AV studio will reduce noise from the road.

**24/82/OSE****CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Cllr D Denis reported that Eco week will run from 11<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> October and urged all Councillors to attend.

Wells City Council had received an emailed from G Wolfenden about Plant based Councils and they would like to attend a meeting. There is a plan that the group will attend a Climate emergency meeting in November.

An "Act to adapt" action plan has been put to us to develop. There will be a workshop for businesses, organisations such as WCN. There will be a presentation on the process. The process will be driven by Somerset Wildlife Trust and Rivers authority. This will take place during Eco-week at 7pm on 16<sup>th</sup> October at Cedars Hall.

**24/83/OSE****WELLS IN BLOOM**

Cllr D Denis announced that the awards ceremony will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Cllr L Agabani (Deputy Mayor) will present the prizes. The Wells in Bloom judges have been very professional. There had however been fewer people attending the awards this year.

Cllr D Denis announced that she will be standing down as Chair of Wells in Bloom Competitions.

Cllr D Orrett thanked Cllr D Denis for her hard work in this role.

A brief discussion took place whether there was a wish by the residents of Wells that the Wells in Bloom awards continues and the format in which it continues.

The meeting requested that there be a representative from the Outside Spaces Team to attend meetings.

Cllr D Denis requested that the planters at the bus station be planted with winter planting.

**24/84/OSE****WATERWAYS**

A brief discussion took place about waterways and how the situation is complicated due to ownership. There will be a presentation on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October about flooding and waterways.

Cllr P Welch reported that flooding, waterways, run off from farms had been discussed at the Wells and rural LCN.

A brief discussion took place about the introduction of beavers to Somerset and that there was a need for education of the public on the subject.

**24/85/OSE****ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

H Wilkins reported that Somerset Council have informed us that their roundabout sponsorship scheme is proceeding at the roundabout coming into Wells at the junction of Glastonbury Road and Bishop's Parkway. Roundabouts are an asset of Somerset Council and will remain so. Historically Chalmers were sponsoring this roundabout through WCC Wells in Bloom but Somerset Council's sponsor is Charlie Bighams with new signs being erected 4<sup>th</sup> October. A new site is being considered

for Chalmers and WCC are grateful that they have long been a supporter of Wells in Bloom.

Cllr P Welch proposed that the Outside Spaces Committee revert to one Agenda per month rather than split.

A lengthy discussion took place. Cllr D Denis informed the meeting that the Town Clerk had confirmed that the format could change but the decision making needed to follow the correct process.

C Woodland reminded the meeting that the current format was one that had been voted on by this committee but that they were perfectly able to revert if they go through the correct process.

Cllr D Denis reported a small task that she wished the Outside Spaces Team to assist with, as they have done so on previous occasions. C Woodland mentioned that she would pass on the request.

**24/86/OSE    DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (Bishop's Barn & Recreation Ground)**

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

**Date: .....**