

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE CITY & TOURISM FORUM MEETING HELD IN THE EAST ROOM,
WELLS TOWN HALL, WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 6.00 PM.

PRESENT: Cllrs: A Gibson (Deputy Mayor; Chairman); R MacKenzie; J Osman;
G Wilson (Mayor)
Ms C Winter, Wells Civic Society
Mr M Johns, Wells Chamber of Commerce
Ms R Martin, The Bishops Palace,

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
4 members of the public

15/19CT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs D Baker; C Cox; T Robbins;
Dr P Richards, Wells Cathedral
Mr A Webb, Wells Museum/Visitor Information.
District Cllrs MacKenzie and Osman would need to leave for another meeting at 6.30pm.

15/20CT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

15/21CT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on **29th JULY** 2015 were proposed, seconded approved and signed.

15/22CT MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

New members of the public were welcomed by the Chairman and it was agreed that comments would be given at the end of the meeting.
Cllr Mackenzie reported on his visits to the Glastonbury Brocante Fair and to new visitor information services at Weymouth.

15/23CT VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES up-dates

The Chairman reported progress with the Town Hall pilot scheme; the touch screen has been delayed by a software compatibility issue with Windows 10 but should be ready shortly. Leaflets and stand are on order. She presented a report from the council (attached) on the website, as requested at the last meeting, and answered questions. Councillors present gave their support to the proposals. In conclusion it was agreed to put forward a request from the Forum to the City Council to progress the project as recommended in the report. Members of the Forum thanked the Council and particularly the Town Clerk and the Administrator for their work on this project and willingness to take it on.

RECOMMENDED:

To progress the visitor information website project (see report attached)

Mr Johns (Chamber of Commerce) reported on work being done towards promoting Wells together with the Bath Chamber of Commerce.

There was a query about the future location of the volunteers at the Museum. It was felt this was a matter for their representative, who was unable to be present; however, it is understood that the service at the Museum will continue as it is.

15/24CT FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following events were reported and information provided where available:

2015

-10th-13th September: Heritage Open Day

-14th-18th September: 'Work in Wells' Week

October: Wells Literature, Food, and Art-Contemporary, Festivals
 -6/7/8th November: Craft Fair at the Bishop's Palace. 3 day event, 25 indoor stalls materials + demonstrations, making your own Christmas presents.
 -20th November: Wells Carnival and Fun Fair
 -21st November: Mayor's Charity event – 'Call My Bluff'
 -Thursday 3rd December: Christmas shopping event organised by the Chamber of Commerce; over 30 shops are enrolled to take part, with a High Street Walking Tour, to circulate people around the town.
 This will run in conjunction with -
 -Saturday 5th December: Small Business Saturday- free parking (To be confirmed with MDC)
 -Sunday 6th December: The Reindeer Parade
 It was reported that all overnight stay capacity in the city is already 100% booked for Saturday 6th.

2016

-April 2016 Film Festival at Wells Cinema
 -May 2016 Wells Brocante Fair date to be confirmed
 -10/ 11/12th June 2016 Bishop's Palace Garden Festival

15/25CT REPORTS FROM OTHER GROUPS

Preparations for the Christmas Season:

- i. Wells City Council: Christmas Lights
 The lights will be put up the last week in November and taken down the first week in January, weather dependant. New features have been ordered and the displays will be varied from last year
- ii. Chamber of Commerce
 - The Chairman reported a very productive meeting with MDC resulting in some changes to car parks signage
 - They are working on promoting Phone and Pay for parking
- iii. Wells Cathedral
 - No report received
- iv. The Bishop's Palace
 - The Palace will be hosting the Literature Festival in October, then the Craft Festival in November
- v. Wells Civic Society
 - Promotional market stand: Wednesday 16th September
 - Wednesday 9th December: Cheese Tasting, talk on local chees-making, at Wells Museum 7.30pm everyone welcome

15/26CT ANY OTHER MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

A member of the public spoke about the importance of the Bed and Breakfast businesses to tourism in Wells and to the needs of visitors. This view was endorsed by the Mayor.

The Forum had been concerned by the lack of contact with the B&Bs.

It was proposed and agreed that a B&B representative be co-opted onto the Forum at the next meeting.

15/27CT DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 6pm Wednesday 11th November 2015

The Chairman thanked everyone very much for attending and closed the meeting.