

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 26th APRIL 2012

AT 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Unwin (The Mayor); C Price (Deputy Mayor); D Anderson; M Brandon; C Briton; S Davies; A Denison; A Gibson; J North; H Siggs; J Osman; N Kennedy; G Wilson; T Butt Philip; T Robbins.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White.
Mace-Bearer: G Weatherhead. Chaplain: C Tookey.
1 member of the press; 2 members of the public.
Representatives of Avon and Somerset Police.

12/57C **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr J Mitchell (unwell). Cllrs Robbins and Butt Philip would arrive late.
The Mayor welcomed Cllr Anderson back after his recent illness.

12/58C **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllrs: North, Osman, Siggs, Denison, Unwin, declared personal interests, as District Councillors, in item 13. Sports Club lease. 12/69Cv. See also 12/62C and 12/68C.

12/59C MINUTES of meetings of the City Council held on 22nd March 2012 were proposed, seconded accepted and signed.
(Cllr Robbins arrived)

12/60C **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

the following matters were raised: (Mr Hudsmith)

- i. Thanked the Mayor for his year of service and for the efficient way business has been conducted.
- ii. The Annual Parish Meeting: was held too early (6pm) and was not advertised sufficiently widely.
- iii. Carnival: return to the original route is welcome; thanked Cllr Robbins for his work as representative on the committee.
- iv. Police: criticized for non-attendance / no report to Council.

12/61C **REPORT FROM THE POLICE**

PC Page gave apologies to the previous meeting; the officer due to attend had been diverted to a very serious traffic accident at the time.

45 tickets had been issued.

The public are being warned of a series of burglaries from sheds and walk-in properties.

Gary Bowden, Events Planning Officer for Somerset East was introduced, he is a civilian officer now based at Wells Police Station to work with event organisers to ensure that Police objectives are covered.

12/62C **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Cllr Robbins declared an interest, as a director, in The Swans of Wells).

- i. The Mayor will be travelling to Fontanellato this weekend for the reciprocal Twinning signing visit.
- ii. The Mayor requested Council's permission to place one of the Swans of Wells outside the Town Hall during the summer. This was proposed, seconded and agreed, the Town Hall Manager to be consulted as to the appropriate position.
- iii. The Mayor gave details of the forthcoming Civic Service of Thanksgiving

on 12th May and encouraged members to attend.

- 12/63C MINUTES OF THE CEMETERY AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2012.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.
- 12/64C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2012.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.
- 12/65C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th and 19th April 2012.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.
The Chairman answered a query, explaining that the City Council is being consulted on the Thales site application (in St Cuthbert Out parish) due to its impact on the City.
- 12/66C MINUTES OF THE WELLS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2012.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.
- 12/67C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2012.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.
RECOMMENDED:
To approve the scheme proposed by the committee; obtain drawings and quotes.
In addition the Chairman reported that the working group recommends proceeding with the roof void insulation and the access lifts for the disabled. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Robbins and unanimously approved.
- 12/68C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2012.
The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved.
The Chairman spoke about the "A" Boards permit scheme proposals; information had been circulated to Councillors; a discussion took place and questions were answered.
(Cllr Davies declared a personal interest as premises owner and did not take part in the vote).
(Cllr Siggs declared a personal interest as County Councillor responsible for Highways).
RECOMMENDED:
To approve the proposed partnership scheme to enable issue of permits for "A" Boards by the City Council.
Proposed by Cllr Robbins, seconded by Cllr North, a vote was taken and the motion was carried by the majority.
Cllr Price reported arrangements have been made by SCC Highways to repair the surface at the top of Sadler Street; the target date is 7th/8th/9th May; the work is likely to be completed in one evening.

12/69C

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. MDC Standards Committee

Cllr Davies reported that the current regulations remain in force until new regulations under the Localism Act are received from the government, (expected September 2012). A steering group is planning how to take matters forward locally after this time.

ii. SCC

Cllr Osman reported bids are again being invited for Minor Highways Improvements Schemes.

iii. Connect Youth Group

The group has completed the training sessions provided by SCC.

Cllr Gibson will be attending a session with the In Touch Project in May.

(Cllr Butt Philip arrived)

iv. Cllr Briton question to SCC-

-regarding outsourcing of Learning Disability Services; County Cllr. Osman responded.

v. Sports Council

Cllr Price thanked members for attending the recent presentation; the Development Plan is a requirement of the lease; it has highlighted some issues, in particular that any substantial grant funding requires a longer lease.

(District Cllrs: North, Denison, Unwin, Siggs, Osman, wished it to be noted that they took no part in the discussion and vote.)

Cllr Kennedy proposed that the City Council ask for Mendip District Council's co-operation with the Sport's Council in seeking a longer lease; seconded by Cllr Anderson and approved by the majority at vote.

12/70C

ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

i. Cllr Robbins congratulated Cllr Denison on the success of his recent charity walk, (echoed by a round of applause!).

ii. Cllr Kennedy congratulated the Mayor on his year in office and thanked him for his fair and even-handed manner of handling the council's business throughout the year.

iii. The Mayor thanked everyone for their good humour, a year of good debate and working together for the good of Wells.

12/71C

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting to be commenced in the Main Hall, Wells Town Hall, at **5pm on Friday 18th MAY 2012 (Mayor-Making)**.

Following the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the meeting will be adjourned; the remaining formal business will be conducted when the meeting re-convenes in the Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall at **7pm on Thursday 24th May 2012.**