

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearer: M Goody; Chaplain: A Wheeler
1 member of the public; 1 member of the press.

14/148C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: J North; J Osman.

14/149C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012:

Cllr Gibson declared a pecuniary interest for personal reasons, and left the room for item 14/156Cii.

14/150C MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER 2014
(attached) were proposed, seconded, approved, and signed.

14/151C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

14/152C TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PC Darren Pearson was welcomed to the meeting. He reported on the success of recent public events in the city, reported on current shoplifting incidents and answered questions.

Priorities from the PACT meeting were:

- Speeding (Tor St, High St, Bristol Hill)

- Chamberlain Street 'No Entry' sign

- footpath at Tor Furlong

- litter bins overflowing at North Road after the Carnival

Cllr Price reported there are on-going negotiations regarding Tor Furlong.

Cllr Kennedy reported problems for residents being refused access to drive home to some streets on Carnival night.

14/153C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor drew members' attention to the Mid-Somerset Carol Concert at 7pm on Thursday 11th December in Wells Cathedral.

14/154C MINUTES OF THE CEMETERY AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 30th October (attached):

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

14/155C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 6th November (attached)

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

(Note amendment: Cllr Kennedy in attendance).

The Christmas lights are up; the Chairman thanked the RFO and staff for all their hard work; he thanked Cllr Gibson (Vice-Chairman) for her work on this project and the street maps project (14/53C).

A site meeting has been held with officers from SCC regarding the lamp post in the Market Square.

14/156C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2014 (attached)
(Cllr Gibson left the room)

- i. The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions; he explained that due to increases in income from elsewhere it will not been necessary to increase the precept this time.

ii. RECOMMENDED:

To approve the BUDGET for the year 2015-16

Proposed, seconded and unanimously approved. It was agreed that the Precept for 2015-2016 be set at £334,634, as shown in the budget.

The Chairman thanked the RFO and Town Clerk for all their hard work, in this and previous years, on budgets and the rent reviews.

(Cllr Gibson returned)

14/157C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 6th November and 20th November
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

LIBRARY SERVICES CONSULTATION

Somerset County Council consultation on the future of library services.

The Mayor invited Cllr Siggs to speak on behalf of Somerset County Council; Cllr Siggs explained the consultation and answered questions.

14/158C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

No changes to report.

ii. Wells Sports Clubs

A business plan is being prepared by the clubs in readiness for the next meeting with MDC

iii. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The first phase of public consultation is nearing completion; a draft Plan will be presented to Council shortly

iv. Mendip District Council

A joint meeting of Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees has approved the following:

- To procure shared legal services with Taunton Deane and West Somerset
- To recommend the Local Plan to full Council
- To grant a long lease of the district leisure facilities to Fusion

14/159C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Gibson thanked SCC Highways for all the remedial works carried out recently within the city.

14/160C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on **Thursday 18th December 2014**