

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon; C Briton; C Cox; A Gibson (The Mayor);
N Kennedy; J Ludovino; R MacKenzie; J North (Deputy Mayor);
J Osman; C Price; T Robbins; H Siggs; D Swain; D Unwin; G Wilson;
C Wride

IN ATTENDANCE: RFO: S Luck ; Mace-Bearer: J Rood
Chaplain: A Glanville
Sgt Mark Pople, Avon & Somerset Police
5 members of the public

16/136C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Town Clerk: F White

16/137C 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 personal and prejudicial interest in finance matters due to her personal relationship with the RFO.

16/138C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH OCTOBER 2016
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Mayor.

16/139C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and two other members of the public spoke about the positives of having a neighbourhood plan and asked for Council support.

16/140C POLICE REPORT
Sgt Mark Pople, Street Station, introduced himself, he had come to represent PC Pearson and bring his apologies. He was thanked for attending.

16/141C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
i. Thursday 8th December: mid-Somerset Carol Concert, Wells Cathedral
Note that Finance & General Purposes Committee will meet on the Wednesday 7th December
ii. Wednesday 21st December Wells Christmas market Mayor's Charity collection.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Unwin for being her chauffeur for Carnival night and presented him with a bottle of wine.

The Mayor also thanked the Outside Spaces team for their work on the Christmas lights in the City.

Cllr Gibson (The Mayor) left the meeting due to her personal and prejudicial interest in the next two agenda items, the Chair was taken by Cllr North (Deputy Mayor)

16/142C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2016:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
Note that the December meeting will be on the Wednesday 7th.

16/143C BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2017-18
RECOMMENDED:
To approve the draft budget as presented
(The Precept to be set in December 2016.)
The Chairman answered questions from members; he then thanked the RFO and Town Clerk for preparing the budget.
Proposed, seconded and approved by majority vote.

Cllr Gibson (The Mayor) returned to the meeting and took the Chair.

16/144C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES & CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE
To receive minutes of the meeting held on 17th November :
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
RECOMMENDED
That council take forward the restoration of the pictures either:
 i. In a whole package, by means of a one-off payment.
 OR
As a five-year program administered from an increased Archives and Assets Committee budget.
After a long debate in which all Councillors spoke, it was agreed to accept the option to do the work over a five year rolling programme and return this item to the Archives committee to investigate further quotes and assess the value of the paintings against repair costs.
Proposed, seconded and approved by majority vote.

16/145C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd November & 17th November:
The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.
RECOMMENDED:
With sadness, because of concerns and lack of finance, this committee recommends to full Council that the current Wells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be discontinued.
After debating this recommendation Councillors agreed to **defer the decision to the next Full Council meeting** as some Councillors had not seen all the paperwork.
It was proposed seconded and agreed to ask the Chairman of the Steering Group and Cllr Robbins to meet in the next seven days and agree what information to distribute or make available to all Councillors to enable a final decision to be made.

16/146C ITEM FROM CLLR BRANDON (See attached)
Car parking in Wells market square
Cllr Brandon presented her proposal to ask MDC to look again at parking on the raised area in the Market Place. After a debate it was agreed to leave this matter and no vote was taken.

16/147C ITEM FROM CLLR BRITON

Withdrawal of bus service 67

Cllr Briton presented this item and spoke of his concern that the service was being withdrawn, and the effect on communities. Other members spoke on the issues.

County Cllr Osman advised this was a commercial service not normally funded by SCC; he quoted costs of £186,000 to run a bus. SCC stepped in temporarily this year when the existing operator ceased trading.

It was agreed the City Council does not have the statutory power to run a bus service.

It was suggested Cllr Briton should meet with the Town Clerk to explore the community bus options available.

16/148C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

1. Cllr North reported

- i. He had attended the Almshouses service representing the Mayor.
- ii. He reported and answered questions on the arson attack at the Wells Recreation Ground. Consultations were taking place to replace the equipment and make improvements. Cllr Briton expressed his concern that the next meeting of the Trust had been arranged to take place at MDC offices and not in Wells.

2. Cllr Unwin reported that a meeting had been arranged on 30th November at 10.00am at MDC to discuss the new Christmas market arrangements and all Councillors were welcome to attend.

16/149C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

No further matters.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 21.40pm and thanked Councillors for their patience at a long meeting.

**16/150C DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7.00pm Thursday 22nd December 2016:
Setting of the Precept**