

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2016 AT 7.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck ; Mace-Bearer: M Goody
Chaplain: A Glanville
4 members of the public

16/151C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs: C Cox; J Osman

16/152C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012:
None declared.

16/153C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2016
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Mayor.
Matter Arising
Cllr Briton reported ref. Minute 16/147C; it was agreed to take this matter later in the meeting. See 16/155C.

16/154C DEFERRED MOTION (Min. Ref. 16/145C)
RECOMMENDED:
That the current Wells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be discontinued.
In introducing the motion, Cllr Robbins asked members to note that he has identified four councillors who will meet early in the new year to look at the best way to take forward the neighbourhood plan process.
An amendment was proposed but not seconded. There was a brief discussion.
The substantive motion was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED**.
(10 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions)

16/155C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- i. A representative of a bus-users group spoke about the 67 bus route.
The Mayor invited Cllr Briton to give his report.
- ii. 67 bus
Cllr Briton reported from a meeting hosted at the Town Hall, convened by Somerset County Council, for representatives from parishes along the existing 67 route, with Mendip Community Transport Mendip. Cllrs Unwin, Price and MacKenzie, and the Town Clerk, were also present. SCC will convene and facilitate further discussions on future options, including shared funding. SCC has since agreed to fund the existing service until 4th March, while parish negotiations take place.

Council agreed that Cllrs Briton and Price will attend the next meeting in Wedmore on 12th January.
Mendip Community Transport has been invited to make a presentation to the next full council meeting on 26th January.

16/156C POLICE REPORT

None present.

Cllr North reported he had spoken to the Chief Constable and requested updates on the investigation into the recent vandalism at the Recreation Ground play area.

Members joined in condemning the state of vandalism and graffiti in the City, and expressed regret at the apparent lack of local policing.

16/157C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Wednesday 21st December Wells Christmas Market; the Mayor's Charity collection raised £308.
- ii. Sunday 15th January 3pm: Bishop Bekynton Commemoration Service
- iii. The Mayor thanked everyone for their greetings and cards; she invited everyone present to the Mayor's Parlour immediately following this meeting, for festive refreshments.

16/158C 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.

He drew members' attention to the excellent project and application from Wells City Band.

Members were reminded that a representative from SALC will attend the next meeting on 12th January, to speak about the General Power of Competence.

16/159C PRECEPT FOR 2017-18

RECOMMENDED: that Council set a Precept of £380,910

(As shown in the budget approved 24th November 2016)

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED.**

16/160C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

To receive minutes of the meeting held on 1st December,

with minutes of City and Tourism Forum meetings:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

16/161C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 1st December & 15th December:

The Chairman presented the minutes and invited questions.

16/162C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. Wells Recreation Ground Trust

Cllrs Robbins and Wride reported they have been welcomed to their first meeting as members of the WRGT committee, at which arrangements for the replacement of the vandalised play area were agreed.

- ii. Cllr Unwin reported he has attended the Wells Almshouses carol service; his first trustees' meeting will be in January.

16/163C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Ludovino spoke about the time put in by volunteers. She expressed her intention of resigning from the Council.
- ii. Cllr Kennedy praised the Mayor for a successful year so far and congratulated her on what she has achieved. On behalf of the Council he wished the Mayor and Consort, and the Town Clerk, a happy Christmas.

16/164C DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7.00pm Thursday 26th January 2017.