



# Wells Town Council

Wells Community Hospital, Mill Rd,  
Wells-next-the-Sea, NR23 1RF

## MINUTES

2024/6

### **Town Council Meeting held at the Clore Room, Wells Maltings on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 19:16 hrs.**

**Those Present:** Mel Catton (Chairman), Roger Arguile, Pauline Catton, Bob Curtis, Cheryl Curtis, Jen Davies, Lindsay Dew, Susan Rainsford, Joyce Trett, David Wines.

Greg Hewitt (Clerk), Emma Gunhouse (Deputy Clerk), Peter Fisher and Michael Dalby

#### **1) Public Forum**

a) Allotments – In relation to item 7, representatives from the allotments addressed the council to update the members regarding the survey they had conducted, in order to establish the tenants' opinion about the current rodent issue and possible ways to resolve the matter. They also raised concerns regarding the condition of the tracks leading to and from the allotments, stating that the increased number of potholes impede access.

Resolved – Clerk to contact Holkham Estate to request improvements to tracks.

b) Parking in High Street – The Chairman reported concerns raised about the number of cars and builders' vans parked in High Street, in spite of the double yellow lines, as they were obstructing traffic and preventing access. The Clerk reminded councillors that any parking incidents, observed by themselves or members of the public, need to be reported at the time of the offense, in order to provide parking operations with an accurate picture of parking violations in Wells.

#### **2) Reports**

a) Police – No report received

b) Norfolk County Council, Councillor Michael Dalby

Councillor MD updated the council on progress made concerning flooding in Staithe Street and the condition of the road surface along Station Road, stating that the Highways department were considering how best to approach the flooding issue and that Station Road was scheduled to be repaired at the end of April. He was asked about the delayed repairs to the junction of Two Furlong Hill and Burnt Street, as well as the condition of the road along the eastern end of Burnt Street, the latter being consider urgent. Councillor MD said he would make enquiries and report back his findings.

c) North Norfolk District Council, Councillor Peter Fisher

A report was received which is available on the website. Councillor SR asked for an update concerning the situation of the Wells Tourist Information Centre. Councillor PF said his enquiries were ongoing and that he would be consulting with Holt Town Council to see how they were tackling the problem.

#### **3) Apologies – Jessica Curtis and Peter Rainsford**



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4) **To receive Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for Dispensations**

None.

5) **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th February 2024**

Approved and signed.

6) **To Receive a presentation from an EIBE representative concerning Wells Play Field**

The council received a presentation from a representative from EIBE illustrating possible improvements which could be made to the Beach Road Play Field.

7) **To consider quotes and advice received regarding pest control on the allotments**

The council discussed the report provided by the clerk concerning the rodent issue at the allotments and the possible means of resolving said problem. They reviewed the means of raising funds outlined in the report and considered the quotes from the pest control companies provided.

Resolved – Clerk to inform allotment tenants of changes to tenancy agreements, which will also include an annual increase of £10, and engage the services of the chosen pest control provider.

8) **To discuss printing and design costs of 'Design Codes' for council members**

The council considered the need for each member to have their own copy of the 'Neighbourhood Plan Design Codes.'

Resolved – Clerk to order copies of 'Design Codes.'

9) **To consider refurbishment of 'Finger Post' situated on the Quay**

The council discussed the need for one of the fingerposts situated on the Quay to be repainted due to wear/damage caused by the elements.

Resolved – Clerk to arrange restoration

10) **Reports**

a) Town Clerk – The Deputy Clerk contacted the Headteacher at Alderman Peel High School to inform him of the council's concerns regarding the students' behaviour in and around the town's bus shelters. As yet the Deputy Clerk has received no response. The Deputy Clerk and several members of the town council met with a representative from Proludic, the final company contacted with regards to the renovation of the Wells Play Field. The company is set to produce designs and costings in the upcoming weeks for the council to consider. The clerk updated the council regarding the street trader at the north end of Staithe Street, stating that Councillor PF's inquiries were ongoing. The Clerk reported the growing need to improve Wells Town Council's current communications system, i.e. to research and obtain a new broadband provider due to the unsatisfactory service from the current supplier. The council queried the possibility of sending agendas via email as postal charges are due to increase and requested that it be itemised on the next meeting's agenda. The Clerk informed the council of further incidents of vandalism to the equipment on the Beach Road Play Field and that they had engaged the services of a local carpenter to make the necessary repairs to both the Bounty and Tractor. The clerk asked the council if they would like to reregister the town's community assets and was instructed to do so.



The Clerk reported that the graffiti had been removed from the bus shelters near the Buttlands and suggested it would be more expedient if the broken panel be removed. It was then requested by the council that this be put on the next agenda. Finally, the clerk asked the council members if there were any particular items they wished to be put forward for the Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for April the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

b) Portfolio Holders/Committees/Working Parties/Councillors

PC (Health and Well Being) – Informed the council of free interactive CPR training available on the British Heart Foundation website.

BC (Financial) – Accounts tallied.

CC (Climate Change and Environment) – Reported that she had been in recent communication with the following two environmental bodies: The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Advisory Group and the North Norfolk Advisory Group

JD (Church and Surrounds) – Raised the issue of littering in Staithe Walk and updated the council of the progress concerning the restoration of St Nicholas Church, stating that the date for completion has been put back to June 2024.

RA (Tourism) – Notified the council that the 'Wells Town Guide 2024' would be available at the end of March.

SR (Maltings) – Related their concerns regarding Bee Orchids growing in the short grass area of Staithe Place.

MC (Traffic Management and Buttlands) – Updated the council of the situation concerning the broken bollards in Staithe Street and the reports of delivery drivers illegally accessing the street, saying that both the police and highways department had been contacted. Informed the council members that some questions had arisen concerning the proposed parking plan and requested that it be added to the agenda for the next meeting to allow further discussion.

**11) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement**

The financial reports were circulated. These can be viewed on the website.

Resolved – Accounts agreed, accepted and signed.

**12) To confirm Date of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm  
Monday 8th April 2024

Meeting ended 21:40 hrs

*Minutes completed by Emma Gunhouse (Deputy Clerk)*

