



Wells Town Council

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

MINUTES

2024/3

Town Council Meeting held at the Clore Room, Wells Maltings on 5th February 2024 at 19:17 hrs.

Those Present: Mel Catton (Chairman), Roger Arguile, Pauline Catton, Bob Curtis, Cheryl Curtis, Jessica Curtis, Lindsay Dew, Susan Rainsford, Peter Rainsford.

Greg Hewitt (Clerk), Emma Gunhouse (Deputy Clerk), Peter Fisher

The Council welcomed back Peter Rainsford after his absence due to ill health.

1) Public Forum

- a) Homes for Wells – Lynne Burdon, Chairman for Homes for Wells, addressed the council in order to discuss concerns raised by some of the local inhabitants relating to its allocations policy.
- b) Allotments – A representative from the allotments addressed the council to thank them for their continued consideration in connection with the current rodent issue.
- c) Bus Shelter – Councillor MC reported that the window of one of the bus shelters has been damaged and that there have been some concerns about the behaviour of students from APHS in and around the bus shelters.
Resolved – Clerk to write letter raising concerns to Headteacher at APHS.
- d) Alistair Beale – The council members were saddened to hear the recent news regarding the loss of local inhabitant and friend to the Council Alistair Beale, and wished to convey their condolences to his family.
Resolved – Clerk to write letter to family members expressing the Council's condolences.
- e) Traffic Outside Co-op – Concerns raised about amount of traffic and speed of cars in and around the Co-op during 'drop off' and 'pick up' times for children at the nearby primary school.
Resolved – Clerk to raise issue with new PC Jonathan Kentfield

2) Reports

- a) Police – PC Jonathan Kentfield introduced himself as the new beat manager for the area. He informed the council that, following the recent Safer Area Neighbourhood Partnership meeting, the chosen priorities for this quarter would be, antisocial behaviour, speeding and raising fraud awareness. He also updated the council relating to the recent break-in at the harbour compound stating the investigation was on ongoing.
- b) Norfolk County Council, Councillor Michael Dalby
No report received
- c) North Norfolk District Council, Councillor Peter Fisher
Peter Fisher present to answer questions:
A report was received which is available on the website.

3) Apologies – Jen Davies, Joyce Trett, David Wines and Michael Dalby



Greg Hewitt

Town Clerk

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

PC item 9.

5) **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th January 2024**

Approved and signed.

6) **To Consider a response to the examiner's clarification report regarding the Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor RA shared the examiner's clarification report concerning the Neighbourhood Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party's responses with the rest of the council. He also updated the members with the current situation concerning the Plan's progress and suggested that all members of the council should have a copy of the relevant 'Design Guide.'

Resolved – RA proposed that the Working Party's responses be approved by the council, and this was passed by the council members. Funding for acquiring the 'Design Guide' for council members put on the agenda for the next meeting.

7) **To discuss Councillor Susan Rainsford's concerns for the Tourist Information Centre**

Councillor SR introduced Simon Daykin, Director of the Maltings, who gave a presentation to the members of the council, detailing the funding concerns for the Tourist Information Centre. The council then considered possible ways of addressing the issue.

Resolved – Councillor Peter Fisher to invite representatives (officers and elected members) from NNDC to discuss the funding crisis of the Tourist Information Centre with Wells Town Council and the staff of the Maltings.

8) **To discuss concerns relating to high levels of accidents on the B1105**

The council considered statistics relating to accidents on the B1105 and discussed issues concerning the road.

Resolved – Councillor MC, as head of Traffic Management Working Party, to liaise with Duncan Baker MP with regards to issues raised.

9) **To consider grant applications from the following bodies:**

a) Wells Twinning Committee b) Wells & District Ladies Probus Club.

Resolved – The Twinning Committee was granted £400 and the Wells & District Ladies Probus Club £200.

10) **Reports**

a) Town Clerk – The Deputy Clerk and several members of the town council have recently met with representatives from the following two companies, Kompan and Eibe to discuss the proposed renovation of the Wells Play Field. Said companies are to provide designs and costings for the council to consider. The Clerk has reported the concerns, previously brought to the council, regarding housing and public disorder in Staithes Street to the Norfolk Constabulary, who will in turn contact Victory Housing. The Clerk has been contacted by N.N.D.C. following their receipt of a complaint from an allotment tenant in connection with the rodent issue. The allotments have since been inspected and the clerk is waiting to hear from the relevant body. Following BT increasing their charges the Clerk is in the process of looking for an alternative phone supplier.



Greg Hewitt

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In addition to the damage reported by Councillor MC (item 1c), the Clerk informed the council of further acts of destruction, this time to the ship's wheel on the Bounty at Wells Play Field. The Clerk reported that the majority of the town streetlights had been repaired and that they were aware of three faulty lights and in process of getting them mended. The council were informed by the Clerk that the lady who resided in Old Staithe Walk had been taken into care and that they were in contact with representatives from the church to consider how best to deal with her personal effects.

b) Portfolio Holders/Committees/Working Parties/Councillors

PR (Housing) – Awaiting the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Aware of strong feelings concerning the need for housing and its allocation.

MC (Traffic Management and Buttlands) – Discussed the following with the relevant authorities: the situation of flooding in Staithe Street, designated pedestrian walkway along Station Road, the condition of the road surface from Standard Road junction along to Mill Road junction as well as the zebra crossing at the top of Standard Road. The map detailing the proposed controlled parking areas for the town is in progress and will be sent to Ian Gregory at Norfolk County Council on completion. The trees on the Buttlands have been cut following an improvement in the weather which allowed access for the necessary forestry equipment.

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 4th March 2024

Meeting ends 21:25 hrs

Minutes completed by Emma Gunhouse (Deputy Clerk)

