



Wells Town Council

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

MINUTES

2024/9

Town Council Meeting held at the Clore Room, Wells Maltings on 8th April 2024 at 19:15 hrs.

Those Present: Mel Catton (Chairman), Pauline Catton, Bob Curtis, Cheryl Curtis, Lindsay Dew, Peter Rainsford, Susan Rainsford & Joyce Trett
Greg Hewitt (Clerk), Emma Gunhouse (Deputy Clerk), Peter Fisher and 3 members of the public

1) **Public Forum**

- a) **Livestock on Allotments** – An allotment holder addressed the council members to confirm whether they could keep two pigs on their site. This had previously been agreed when the tenant was awarded the allotment, as it fell within the rules of the tenancy agreement and the holder possessed the required qualifications. The council gave their support regarding the original arrangement, pointing out that as a precedent had been set by other tenants keeping livestock on their allotments this was fine providing the animals were well cared for.
- b) **Fortnightly Planning Meetings** – A member of the council requested that fortnightly planning meetings be reinstated and that the topic be added for consideration to the agenda of the next council meeting.
- c) **Resolved** – Clerk to add discussion of reintroduction of fortnightly planning meetings to the next council meeting agenda.

2) **Reports**

- a) **Police** – no report received
- b) **Norfolk County Council, Councillor Michael Dalby** – no report received
- c) **North Norfolk District Council, Councillor Peter Fisher**
Councillor PF was present to answer questions:
A report was received which is available on the website.

3) **Apologies** – Roger Arguile, Jessica Curtis, Jen Davies, David Wines & Michael Dalby

4) **To receive Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for Dispensations** None.

5) **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th March 2024** Approved and signed.

6) **To discuss additional parking restrictions and the feasibility of residential parking including how it would be implemented**

The council considered the difficulties caused by increased traffic in Wells and the resulting lack of parking, focusing on the problems these raise for the local inhabitants. They discussed two distinct possible means of alleviating the problems, residential parking zones and restricted parking, whether a street by



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street approach to residential parking would be preferable as opposed to the town as a whole and the potential effectiveness of restricted parking.

The council decided that the subject would be put up for discussion at the Annual Town Meeting to garner the opinions of the local populace regarding the issues covered.

Resolved – Clerk charged with advertising the Annual Town Meeting.

7) **To consider the installation of safety railings along the strip of quay in between Tugboat Yard and the Shipwright's**

The council discussed the strip of quay in between Tugboat Yard and the Shipwright's, whether it presented a potential hazard to pedestrians regarding risk of injury and required the installation of safety railings to help prevent accidents. Several points were raised during the discussion, those being: the need to identify who is responsible for the section of quay specified; the potential effect that railings would have on increasing the actual area used by cars for parking (thereby hindering the approach of cars wishing to access the East Quay, leading to further problems); how the railings themselves may present another cause for concern due to children clambering over them. A representative from the 'Wells Day Boat Association' drew the council's attention to the negative impact that such fittings would have for their members, as they would impede access for boat owners who wish to reach the running moorings attached to that stretch of quay wall. As a result, the council concluded that further information was necessary before they could reach a decision.

Resolved – Chairman to contact Norfolk County Council and Wells Harbour Commissioners to gather more data.

8) **To discuss sending the agendas for the Wells Town Council monthly meeting via email to council members**

The councillors considered whether the agendas and accompanying paperwork for the council meetings could be sent via email due to the rising costs of postage. The Clerk advised that this option, regarding the distribution of said documents, fell within the specifications of the law and that it was up to the personal preference of the individual council member as to how they would like their agendas to be sent.

Resolved – Council members to contact the Clerk to state how they wish to receive the agendas for the Wells Town Council monthly meetings.

9) **To consider the option for the permanent removal of the damaged panel on the bus shelter near the Buttlands**

The council discussed the bus shelter near the Buttlands and the damaged panel caused by vandalism. They concluded that it should be removed and not replaced with another panel.

Resolved – Clerk to arrange for the panel to be removed from said bus shelter.

10) **To review and discuss the proposed April Budget**

The Clerk presented the proposed budget for April and the financial year for 2024/2025

Resolved – The proposed budget was agreed.

11) **To consider the grant applications from the following bodies**

a) Little Gillies Daycare, b) Wells Men's Shed, c) East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust Charitable Funds



The council discussed the grant applications recorded above and it was proposed that £500 pounds be awarded to both Little Gillies Daycare and Wells Mens' Sheds. The council felt that they needed more information regarding the application made by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust Charitable Funds before any decision to determine a financial award could be made.

Resolved – Little Gillies Daycare was granted £500, Wells Men's Shed £500 and Clerk to contact East of England Ambulance Service to request further details.

12) Reports

a) Town Clerk – The Clerk informed the council that they had been contacted by the 'Hedgehog R Us Highway Project' to see if the council would like to be involved. This would entail buying hedgehog 'gateways' (at a cost of £150 for 50), which would then be placed in garden fences around the town. The Clerk asked the councillors to contact them if they would like to see the topic as an agenda item.

The Clerk stated that they had received a request for pre-consultation comments in connection with 5G upgrades being made to an existing radio base station near the carrot processing plant at New Farm, Warham Road. The clerk advised the council not to offer any comments and concerns were raised regarding the possible harm caused by such a project to wildlife in the area. The council asked the Clerk to investigate whether an Environmental Impact Study would be feasible.

The Clerk reported that Holkham had been in contact requesting the council's opinion concerning the proposed name, 'Hobs Close,' for the housing development south of Ashburton Close and that this would be on the agenda for the council meeting in May.

The Deputy Clerk reported that they and two other members of the council had recently met with the representative from Kompan regarding the company's design proposal for the Beach Road Play Field. They updated the council on progress made and that an official presentation to the council had been arranged for the 3rd of June.

The Deputy Clerk notified the council that the contractor previously engaged to repair the goalmouths on the play field was set to begin work on the 15th of April. The Deputy Clerk also related that they had received quotes for the refurbishment of the slide including one from the same contractor. The Deputy Clerk was then charged with securing the services of said contractor.

The Clerk informed the council that a local resident had been in contact to raise the issue of 'Blue Street Lights' and their potential to adversely affect peoples' health. The Clerk requested the precise location of any blue street lights so they could arrange for them to be repaired while still under warranty.

Finally, the clerk repeated their appeal to be informed off any particular items that councillors wished to put forward for the Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for April the 22nd.

b) Portfolio Holders/Committees/Working Parties/Councillors

RA via Zoom (Tourism and Neighbourhood plan) – Updated the council concerning the Neighbourhood Plan and reported that copies of the 'Wells Town Guide 2024' had been delivered to information centres at Hunstanton, Burnham Deepdale and Cromer, and that they would be delivered to Holt and Kings Lynn soon.



PC (Health and Well Being) – Informed the council of the impact that the planned changeover from analogue landlines to digital is set to have on the population and related the topics for discussion at the next Safer Neighbourhood Action Panels (SNAPs) meeting.

BC (Financial) – Nothing to report.

CC (Climate Change and Environment) – Reported that the Wash and North Norfolk Marine Advisory Group had recognised the impact of tourism on Wells in a recent publication, in particular the ecological effects stemming from both the high numbers of people on the beach and boats moored in the harbour as well as parking issues.

LD (Cemetery) – Nothing to report.

PR (QEH) Has invited a representative of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to come and address the council and is awaiting confirmation.

SR (Maltings and Affordable Housing) Updated the council regarding the Bee Orchids growing in the short grass area of Staithe Place and that they had been in contact with the environmental contractor and Natural England in connection with the matter. They had also been in contact with Homes for Wells, who have been offered four flats at Ashburton Close.

JT (Allotments) Reported to the council that they had received a complaint in relation to the abuse of water privileges on the allotments.

MC (Traffic Management and Buttlands) – Notified the council that the loading zone on the quay continues to be abused with people parking in the area while collecting their fish and chips from the businesses opposite, saying that evidence had been sent to the relevant authority. They also informed the council that the majority of the lights on the Buttlands had been checked and that only a few holes remained that needed filling.

13) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement

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

Resolved – Accounts agreed, accepted and signed.

14) To confirm Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm Monday 13th May 2024

Meeting ended 21:40 hrs

Minutes completed by Emma Gunhouse (Deputy Clerk)

