



Wells Town Council

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

MINUTES

2021/27

Town Council Meeting held at the Clore Room, Wells Maltings on 1st November 2021 at 1917 hrs.

Those Present: Mike Gates (Chairman), Janet Angles, Roger Arguile, Mel Catton, Pauline Catton, Karen Clarke, Lindsay Dew, Peter Rainsford, & Guy Warren

Greg Hewitt (Clerk) Duncan Baker MP, Peter Fisher, and 3 Member of the Public

1) Public Forum

Duncan Baker spoke to the Council about a) funds raised by MP's including Duncan in the London Marathon, some of which went to Wells charities (RNLI/Hospital) b) Ambulance response times, its was hoped a rapid response vehicle would be based at Fakenham to help improve things c) Booster jabs for COVID would be available at Wells Hospital for 5 consecutive Mondays from 8th November d) consideration was being given to introducing planning reforms to better control second homes. PR asked about 2nd homes paying business rates and receiving 100% small business rate relief (Duncan said changes had been made requiring those types of property to be rented for at least 140 days a year to qualify to register for business rates).

MC asked for help with the coach parking situation on Market Lane (Duncan agreed a date to meet with MC on Market Lane to see what could be done).

A member of the public brought forward an idea to commemorate volunteers in Wells. MC said the harbour would be lighting the beacon for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

2) To receive a presentation from William Schofield, a Chances Advocate for the NCC Chances Project.

Mr Schofield explained that Chances Norfolk was a 2-year project funded by NCC and the EU to get people of any age into training, education or work. There are 25 advocates offering one to one help and people can be referred by anyone.

3) Reports

a) Police – no report received.

b) Norfolk County Council, Councillor Michael Dalby
No report received.

c) North Norfolk District Councillor Peter Fisher
A report was received and is available on the website.

4) Apologies – Michael Dalby, Jessica Curtis, Ray Hewitt & Joyce Trett



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Minutes Continued

- 5) To receive Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for Dispensations. - MC item 7.
- 6) To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2021.
Approved and signed.
- 7) To consider a grant request from Wells Christmas Tide Festival Lighting Committee.
Resolved – to grant £500.
- 8) To consider whether to contract somebody to place out the Bollards in Staithe Street after the current operative retires at the end of December.
Resolved – It was agreed that the Council would advertise for someone to replace the current operative. The council would also consider other options for improving the way drivers are notified of the road closure in Staithe Street.
- 9) To consider a request by Wells Carnival Committee to allow an additional electric power cabinet to be installed on the south side of the Buttlands and agree to part fund the project with the Carnival Committee.
Resolved – It was agreed that an additional power cabinet could be installed and that the council would pay half.
- 10) To consider the budget and precept for the financial year 2022 - 2023.
Resolved – It was agreed to accept the budget prepared by the Clerk and that the precept for 2022 – 2023 would be £80,000 (no increase from the previous year).
- 11) To consider whether to renew the contract with the existing ground maintenance operative or to go out to tender when the contract finishes at the end of the year.
Resolved – To renew the contract for another year.
- 12) Reports
- a) Town Clerk
The Clerk reported as follows: a) the Clerk asked where the councillors wanted to meet in the New Year; it was agreed to keep meeting at the Maltings b) the Clerk asked for approval to get the hedge on the southern boundary of the Polka Cemetery cut (approval was given).
- b) Portfolio Holders/Committees
RA (Tourism and Neighbourhood Plan) RA reported that the Neighbourhood Plan working party would be meeting on the 4th November 2021, to look at the results of the consultation and the assessment of sites produced by AECOM.
PC (Health & Wellbeing) PC was concerned that the proposed rapid response vehicle to be based at Fakenham would not improve ambulance response times for Wells.



Minutes Continued

MC (Traffic and Parking) MC reported that the following was discussed at the recent Traffic Management Working Party:

Coach parking Market Lane, the overflow car park, a dedicated traffic warden, a review of areas needing additional parking restrictions, a whole town parking and traffic survey to be completed by NCC which would include consideration for residential parking.

PR (Environment and Climate) PR was looking at ways to attract funding for community affordable heating solutions.

13) Financial Report & Accounts for Settlement

The financial reports were circulated and agreed. These can be viewed at Appendix A and on the website

Resolved – Accounts agreed, accepted and signed.

14) To confirm Date of Next Meetings - Confirmed as Monday 6th December 2021.

Meeting ends 2122hrs.



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