

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee meeting 13th December 2022

2.00pm. 23 New Street

Attendees: Doug Robinson, Ian Robinson, Jules Tresidder, Philip Welch & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies for absence:** Patrick Brown, Gerry Clark, Pam Crummay, Adrian l'Anson & Jon Jeffries
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** (11th October 2022): agreed
3. **Matters arising:** (not on the agenda)
 - IR reminded members that the dead Sequoia tree needed to be removed from Palace Fields, in consultation with James Cross.
4. **Chair's report (CW)**
CW is in touch with the Bishop's secretary; Bishop Michael has accepted the invitation to be CS President and will be invited to an event in the near future.
5. **Annual General Meeting:** Minutes will be approved next year at the AGM
6. **Membership update (CW)** No report
7. **Trees & Environment (GC)** No report

8. Events & speakers

14 th December	Seasonal celebration
11 th January	Moira Anderson, Bishop's Palace Swan Whisperer
8 th February	Balancing Heritage & Growth – Ian Green, Oxford Civic Society & ACT
8 th March	Sustainable Housing with Jackson Moulding, Director of SNUG Housing to be confirmed
12 April	
10 th May	St Cuthbert's Church – tour and talk
14 th June	Summer Social

Future events:

- A panel of councillors to discuss planning and other issues (eg: the future of the Bishop's Barn) would be considered.
- PW suggested that some of the speakers scheduled to speak at the Men's Breakfasts might be invited to speak at CS events. He would pass the list to CW.
- It was also suggested that the recently retired Lord Lieutenant, Annie Maw, should also be invited to speak.

9. Treasurer's report (IR)

- Subscriptions to date are £1,413, compared with a total of £1,865 for last year. However, the Committee should note that a number of subs are paid during the first quarter of the next calendar year. Liquidity currently is good, with £1,940 in the current account and £7,042 in the reserve account.
- A **£50 donation** for last speaker, to the Westbury Society for the archaeological dig, was **agreed**.

(Update: £343.06 Gift Aid received from HMRC on 19th December.)

10. **Plaques update** JJ sent a report to CW in his absence:

- “Health Centre Blue Plaque: - “I can report that Patrick and I will meet on Monday¹. He has agreed to prepare the required drawing and I have put in hand obtaining the OS maps to the scales required. Also started the planning application- it shouldn't be as problematic as the Chamberlain St plaque.”
- “Chamberlain St plaque: - We have withdrawn our application because the cost was proving to be excessive. There was also an issue over the visibility and significance of the street's historic buildings.””

11. City Council projects update

- Portway Annexe:
 - New pasters at the Elim Church / Connect Centre wish to focus on the building as a Church and have given notice to all user groups. Many of these have moved to the Portway Annexe.
 - However, after a request from Ross Young, the quarterly SOUP will continue to be hosted at the Connect Centre.
 - Strode College is not using the venue as had been expected.
- Recreation Ground & Bishops Barn: a Management Group has been set up, made up of councillors and residents, with the first meeting held on 12th December.
- Signage & bollards. No update
- Neighbourhood Plan: CW reported that according to the City Council Planning Committee minutes the public consultation has been completed, Mendip DC has commented on the draft and the Plan will progress from here.

12. Planning report No report

13. AOB:

- DR asked for update on Old Deanery. This has been sold as private residence and planning application has been applied for. ²
- CW has been notified that the cost of maintaining the domain name has increased.
- Following the sale of The Swan Hotel, JT agreed to enquire whether a previous offer to host WCS committee meetings without charge would be honoured.

14. Date of next meeting: 10th January 2023 @ 2pm (Venue tbc)

¹ Due to bad weather, this meeting was postponed.

² Purchased by Nick Brice, former resident of Wells, as a private dwelling, including an apartment for his mother and her carers.

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee meeting
11th October 2022

Present: Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson, Jules Tresidder & Chris Winter

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Patrick Brown, Gerry Clark, Pammy Crummay, Adrian l'Anson, Doug Robinson & Philip Welch
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting (12th July 2022):** Agreed.
- 3. Matters arising (not on the agenda):**
 - Group discussion on the attendance of committee members at meetings and the general way that the Society is moving. Concern was expressed about improving membership numbers and encouraging members to join the committee.
 - There had not been any surprises in the responses to the recent survey of members or any suggestions that we should change what we do.
- 4. Chair's report (CW)**
 - Report circulated 1st September and updated 4th October.
 - Feedback on Jubilee lunch & Heritage Open Days:
 - The **Jubilee lunch** was well attended and very successful.
 - Antonia Gwynn (St Cuthberts) & CW had organised a programme of events for **Heritage Open Days**, but attendance had been disappointing. To be successful it needs to be organised earlier in the year with all 'institutions' in Wells involved from the start, and well publicised. If there is no interest in taking this forward amongst representatives of the main players, then we cannot take sole responsibility for making it happen. IR suggested we invite representatives of heritage organisations to meet together to discuss the future of the event.

Action CW
emailed Antonia 12th / meeting on 18th Oct.
 - **Pugin in Wells** – CW had received an email from someone in the USA regarding Pugin's 'relationship' with Wells and suggesting that the Society might collaborate with him. CW has spoken to PB and will ask members if they have any interest in this.

Action CW
- 5. Annual General Meeting:**

CW will notify member and circulate an Agenda and Report for the AGM at 6pm on 9th November 2022 with a request for nominations for the committee.

Action CW

JJ suggested two people who may be interested which he would pursue.
He will also ask Paddy O'Hagan if he knows anyone who might like to help.

Action JJ
- 6. Membership update (CW):**

75 members paid renewal fees on 1st October; (total 109 members as this includes couples). There are 33 still to pay as renewal dates can vary. The net increase in subscriptions to the year-end 30th September is £135 compared to 2020/21.
- 7. Trees & Environment (CW):**

There are four left of the 50 oak trees received. Donations for the trees 'adopted' was £85 which has been used, **as agreed**, to pay for a year's membership of The Woodland Trust, leaving £35 towards membership for a second year, if agreed.
- 8. Events & speakers 2022/23**

12th October City of Wells Neighbourhood Plan – consultation and discussion

JJ suggested another attraction based on “The Bloody Assizes” in the cells under the Town hall. To date discussions at the TH have not been positive. CW confirmed that the Plan is a *planning* document, but he might suggest this idea to AIA as part of the NP *projects* relating to the visitor economy.

- 9th November AGM & Andrew Buchanan on Westbury's Romano-British Villa
- 14th December Seasonal celebration – speaker optional.
CW will invite the new Bishop to become the Society’s President (as is traditional) and to speak at this, or another, evening meeting.
JT suggested a photo montage / exhibition showing what we had achieved in the year. CW said she would put together a powerpoint show which could run during the evening. Action CW
- 11th January Moira Anderson, Bishop’s Palace Swan Whisperer.
- 8th February “Balancing Heritage and Growth” - new research featuring Wells as a case study: Ian Green from Oxford Civic Society & ACT.
- 8th March Sustainable Housing with Jackson Moulding, Director of SNUG Homes
- 12 April TBC: Options - Somerset Waste or JJ on the Bloody Assizes Action CW
- 10th May St Cuthbert’s Church – tour and talk.
- 14th June Summer Social (JJ offered his band as entertainment during the evening).

9. Treasurer’s report (IR):

- i. Compared to the previous year, income from subscriptions increased £135, dividends from the CAF fund were up £178, and donations rose £121. Expenses increased considerably by £2,446 (after netting out the income and expenditure for the Platinum Jubilee lunch). We spent substantially more on donations (£1,500 more than last year). WCS also contributed a further £2,000 to Wells in Mosaic, roughly the same as last year.
- ii. Because of Covid-related constraints, the Society had spent relatively little in the previous year 2020/21, so we ended that year with a higher than usual balance in the current account. This allowed us to make relatively more in the way of donations in 2021/22.
- iii. The value of the Harry Parkes Benevolent (CAF) Fund has dropped from £15,670 to £14,084. This was due to equity market falls, particularly after the “mini-budget.” IR thought it would, however, recover value over the medium-term. He pointed out the Fund yielded 2.5% in annual dividends, which was a reasonable return in the current climate. The Reserve Account ended the year with over £7,000, of which a further £5,000 was committed to Wells in Mosaic. WCS’s total commitment to Wells in Mosaic represented about 12% of the project’s likely total cost. The Society has considered that should be sufficient to see the project to completion; but if in the end there was a small shortfall in funding, the Society might consider providing a final smaller sum.
- iv. Marilyn Cattell is again inspecting the annual accounts and is likely to sign off on them soon.

10. Plaques update (JJ)

- i. **Health Centre:** no further information at this time. JJ to move forward.
- ii. **Chamberlain Street:** Planning permission has been granted by Mendip District Council. JJ and PW met to discuss the text for the plaque, (provided originally by PB). A suggested, shorter text was circulated to members present. There was discussion about the value of the information to be included and the length of the text.
JJ had a quote for the making of the plaque - £762, which does not include installation. There were discussions about the value of the plaque, as there are already two in the proposed location and it will be a significant cost. These factors, and the time and effort already

expended, and keeping the plaques clean and legible too, need to be considered by the whole committee before a decision can be made about going ahead with this.

JJ was asked to find out the cost of installation so that this can be discussed and agreed at the next meeting.

[Action JJ](#)

11. City Council projects update: no reports

12. Planning report: no report

13. AOB :

JJ reported the reluctance of the City Council to consider his suggestion of an attraction, based on the Bloody Assizes, located in the cells at the Town Hall.

He hoped that a future Mayor and/or Town Clerk might see the benefits and support the idea. CW said that she could understand some of the difficulties there could be in terms of access to the cells and managing visitors, but these could probably be overcome.

14. Date of next meeting:

8th November 2022 2.00pm at the Swan Hotel, Exmoor Room

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting
12th July 2022**

Present: Gerry Clark, Pam Crummay, Jon Jefferies, Doug Robinson, Ian Robinson & Chris Winter.

1. Apologies for absence: Patrick Brown, Adrian l'Anson, Jules Tresidder & Philip Welch

2. Minutes of the last meeting (7th June 2022) Agreed

3. Matters arising (not on the agenda) None

4. Chair's report (CW)

- i. **Estate agents' / festival posters:** several people have commented that these have become too inappropriate and numerous. After a conversation with Cllr Denise Denis, CW had **agreed** to write to festival organisers to ask their sponsors to abide by the legal requirements. There are very clear local authority rules regarding placement, design, removal etc.¹ However, a legal challenge would be unnecessarily confrontational and expensive.

Discussion followed about other signage and the scruffy state of the city in this regard. The Society has already carried out signage surveys and presented these to the City Council. It was **agreed** that these issues should be revived and the City Council approached to enquire about addressing the problem. CW **agreed** to write to the Town Clerk & the Mayor. (Could this be part of the remit of the Open Spaces team?)

"Street Clutter" (reduction of..) was a national issue some time ago and could be raised again, via a local press campaign perhaps?

- ii. **Survey / letter to members:** CW was concerned that email communication did not reach all members but printing and delivering letters was money and time consuming. She thanked Adrian and Ian for delivering the recent letter/survey.

Putting together and publishing a paper programme once a year might encourage attendance at monthly meetings but would need a team effort to put this together by September. All **agreed** to help to co-ordinate a programme of speakers.²

Discussion also followed regarding raising money either to pay speakers and/or for other purposes; ideas included a speaker's raffle or a 'big prize' raffle for a particular purpose. Raising the membership fee is not an option to be considered at present as income and expenditure can be balanced.

The cost of the venue was also raised and it was **agreed** to explore other options, although the Museum does have advantages as a venue.

Other fundraising options were discussed, although organising events is very time consuming. 'Outsourcing' is an option: eg: asking Tony Robbins at the Venue to run a quiz night.

¹ Note from JJ: "Somerset County Council were hot on the rules about Roadside posters. The rules are that they should promote a specific event rather than the sponsoring company. The event is the main focus. Where the event is held is of secondary importance. They should be displayed up to 3 weeks prior to the event and be removed up to a week after the event. Land owner's permission must be granted. Any posts should be put up on the landowner's side of any fence/ boundary and not on the road verge."

² NB: Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from October to June (usually); the November meeting includes the AGM, the December meeting is usually a Seasonal Celebration / Social and June (or July) is the Summer Social.

5. Membership update (CW)

2 new members, but two deaths notified recently bringing the total to 154 personal members + 4 corporate.

6. Trees & Environment

CW reported that there are 12 oak trees remaining from those donated. PC said that she would like two. CW **agreed** to take some to tomorrow's meeting to offer to members.

7. Events & speakers

- i. **Summer Social** 6pm 13th July – setting up and Meet & Greet: PC, JJ, GC & IR agreed to help; set up from 5pm. CW & IR to bring strawberries, Pimms and other drinks.
- ii. **Marking the Jubilee** – September event: JJ suggested that Annie Maws should be invited to speak and **agreed** to contact her. The date will depend on her diary and the results of the members' survey.
- iii. **AGM** and future events: CW reminded members that preparations for the AGM in November need to be made in advance of that date; ie: the accounts as at 30/09/22 and the annual report.
- iv. **Feedback from Prison visit** – IR reported a very good event with 21 attending. He **agreed** to send a short report to DR for the website.

8. Treasurer's report

IR had circulated a written report which showed healthy accounts.

There followed discussion regarding the large amount of 'reserves' and how this might be used for community projects.

JJ proposed a project which had been started pre-covid but had not been progressed. He considered that Bloody Assizes and associated history should be better known and could be exploited for visitor and local interest.

He had obtained estimates for an 'exhibition' and many other details but an appropriate location was needed. Both the Museum and the cells at the Town Hall were suggested. CW **agreed** to contact Cllr Stewart Cursley (current Mayor) to discuss the latter as a partnership project.

9. Plaques update (JJ)

- i. Health centre: no further progress
- ii. Chamberlain Street: after some 'false starts', progress is being made and JJ is in discussion with MDC and a supplier. CW thanked him for his perseverance.

10. City Council projects update (PW/AIA) – No reports

11. Planning report (AIA) – No report

12. AOB

DR asked whether the Roman villa being excavated at Westbury sub Mendip might be of interest as an evening talk. It was agreed that it would be, and he **agreed** to follow this up for the new programme of events.

13. Dates of next meetings:

9th August **tbc**
6th OR 27th September **tbc**
11th October
8th November
13th December

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the
Committee meeting held on 7th June 2022

Present: Pam Crummay, Adrian l'Anson, Ian Robinson, Jules Tresidder and Chris Winter

1. **Apologies for absence:** Patrick Brown, Gerry Clark, Jon Jefferies, Doug Robinson and Philip Welch
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** (10th May 2022): **Agreed**
3. **Matters arising** (not on the agenda): For Somerset Day next year we need to contact Thatchers, Showerings and/or Orchard Pig if we are to hold a themed event.
4. **Chair's report (CW)**
 - i. **Platinum Jubilee Event** held on 5th June: excellent response and a BBC Somerset reporter remarked that it was the best event in the whole of Somerset. There was good interest in Society's stall on Cathedral Green and for "Adopt a Tree for the Jubilee". Twelve of the 24 oak trees were 'adopted' with donations of £60. Potential members were invited to the meeting to be held on 8 June.
 - ii. **Donations** from tree 'adoptions': several suggestions had been made for this money – general funds / a tree charity / the Woodland Trust. It was **agreed** that these options should be put to members at the Summer Social next month.
 - iii. **Local Listing** (see circulated email): AA circulated Policy HBE2: Local Heritage Assets with the criteria appended. This Policy aims to protect and enhance the historic city. Discussion followed on whether the Civic Society should be involved in this project, working with S W Heritage to include it in the National Listing. There is an issue with gaining permission from the owners of buildings for them to be included (as with any other types of listing).

Participation was **agreed** in theory, and AA suggested that Tim Barrow and Alan Thomas might be invited to assist him and CW.

See: Local Heritage List (LHL) project <https://swheritage.org.uk/local-heritage-list>
 - iv. **The Constitution:** The Objects of the Society are laid out in paragraphs 1, 2, & 3 and CW suggested that we need to be clear about our focus, and that activities and talks need to adhere to this as much as possible. There are many other groups in Wells which address other areas of interest.

Concerns were raised about the appeal of the Society to younger potential members, although CW pointed out that it is inevitably slightly older people who have the time and interest to become involved in 'civic' affairs. With many new residents moving into the city a leaflet targeting this group could be circulated to the new housing estates, emphasising "*looking after the place you live in*".

It was suggested that Members might be consulted about the next season's programme. CW **agreed** to circulate a questionnaire before the next meeting.
5. **Membership update** (CW): There is still a vacancy for Membership Secretary. Membership numbers to date: 161 personal members and 4 corporate members.
6. **Trees & Environment:**
 - i. AA **agreed** to meet with GC to discuss the cycle track on the edge of Tor Wood.

- ii. AA said that two glamping pods had appeared as *Wells Cathedral Glamping* and the extent of their Planning Permission is not clear. Camping facilities in Palace Fields raises concerns about traffic and parking. The long-term plans for the development of Palace Farm and Palace Fields also give cause for concern.
- iii. The development of the Bishop's Barn will also cause problems regarding traffic and parking in the future. PC stated that the City Council's capacity to deal with these issues may change with the transfer to a Unitary Authority in April 2023.

7. Events & speakers

- i. June 8th speaker: – Dr Philip Hickman – “The history and architecture of Wells Cathedral”
- ii. Meet & Greet for meeting on 8th June. PC, IR, CW and JT
- iii. July 13th - Summer Social held at the Museum at **6pm**. Bubbly and strawberries in the garden, weather permitting. PC suggested a buffet style table for the event to try to avoid waste.
- iv. Marking the Society's Jubilee: CW suggested a September event to start the new season with a lunch event possibly, instead of evening. Members would be canvassed for their preferences.
- v. Sylvia Hanks has suggested a number of topics and speakers for the next programme.
- vi. IR suggested that the incoming Bishop, Michael Beasley, should be invited to speak, once he is installed, and CW said that the Friends of the Wells Cathedral Organ were 'promised' to speak in the autumn.

8. Treasurer's report: IR reported:

“WCS continues in good financial health. The current account shows a balance of £1,117 (up from £906 a month ago) and the reserve account £7,033 (virtually no change).

“There have been no new subscriptions.

“The improvement in the current account is due to a dividend payment of £211.04 from the Harry Parkes / CAF fund, and no expenses incurred.”

AA expressed concern about the future of the Society in view of the demographic of the membership. CW pointed out that there had been a significant number of new members this year, although we have also lost a few and that the age-appeal was unlikely to change as discussed earlier (4. iv above). Wider engagement is needed, both from the committee and from members, for new projects.

CW asked if she might claim back some of the costs for stationery as she does a significant amount of printing for the Society. This was **agreed**.

9. Plaques update:

- i. Health Centre: no report
- ii. Chamberlain Street: no report

10. City Council projects update (AIA)

- i. **Portway Annexe:** AA reported that there was great interest from musicians in Wells and people have been drawn in from outside the city.
- ii. **Recreation Ground & Bishops Barn:** nothing to report.
- iii. **Signage & bollards:** AA suggested that this project should be linked with the Regeneration Project which has now moved into traffic calming issues. Matthew Prince, from County Hall, is an evangelist for regenerating high streets, and a traffic calming scheme could lead to partial closure of the High Street (excluding coaches and buses). Outsourcing the feasibility study for this to PJA Assoc. has resulted in a Local Cycling and Walking Assessment.
- iv. **Neighbourhood Plan:** this continues to be well funded and is reaching its final stages. The Waterways Survey carried out by the Society in 2016 will be appended to this.
[WNP Consultation Draft 2019-2029.pdf](#)

11. **Planning report:** AA reported that Cllr Denise Denis is Chair of the Planning Committee at the City Council, and that as part of the redevelopment of Lidl the company will pay for a pedestrian crossing and a cycle way in the vicinity.
12. **AOB**
Visits: IR reported that the visit to Shepton Mallet was going ahead.* PC said she would contact the Cathedral regarding visits for members.
13. **Date of next meeting:** 12th July, 2.00pm Exmoor Room Swan Hotel.

*Arranged for 8th July c25 people

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the
Committee Meeting held on 10th May 2022

Present: Pam Crummay, Jon Jefferies, Doug Robinson. Ian Robinson, Jules Tresidder and Chris Winter

- 1. Apologies:** Patrick Brown, Gerry Clark, Adrian I' Anson and Philip Welch
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting (12th April 2022):** Agreed
- 3. Matters arising:** None.
- 4. Chair's report (CW)**
 - i. At the Annual May Charter Fair opening ceremony on 7th May, Richard Green, who has been made an Honorary member of the Showman's Guild, announced his retirement from organising the event, which he has done for 30 years. He was thanked by the Mayor and representatives of the Guild. He gave a donation of £25,000 to the Mayor, Cllr Philip Welch, for the City Council to fund the continuation of the event into the future.
 - ii. CW agreed to send DR press releases and images to update the website.
- 5. Membership update:** There is still a vacancy for a Membership Secretary. Current membership is 159 personal members.
- 6. Trees & Environment:**
 - i. Donated oak saplings: GC sent a report to CW suggesting that it would be very difficult to find a public site for all the trees, and ensure that they were looked after.
There was further agreement for "Adopt a Tree for the Jubilee": the saplings would be offered to the public (for £5) from the stall on the Cathedral Green at the Jubilee celebrations on 5th June. CW & GC would write a leaflet with advice about planting / looking after trees and encourage adoptees to report progress – with photos for the website.
 - ii. The donations made to The Lawrence Centre and the Museum Gardens were reported in the May edition of Wells Voice; members are invited to visit the gardens, which everyone is delighted with.
- 7. Events / speakers:**
 - i. **11th May** – Somerset Day: Alan Stone, author and cider maker. Alan would provide cider for tasting and purchase; drinks would also be available as usual before the talk.
8th June - CW is arranging for Dr Philip Hickman to speak about "The History & Architecture of the Cathedral"
13th July - Summer social in the Museum gardens – to be confirmed.
Extending the programme into July might compensate for the lost time due to the pandemic.
 - ii. CW has been trying to arrange a talk about the Cathedral Organ Appeal, but no one will be available this summer; a date in the autumn is a possibility to be followed up.
 - iii. There were further discussions about setting up additional events: eg: the High Parts Tours and the Chained Library at the Cathedral. JT tabled dates of all events at the Cathedral and PC agreed to follow up booking one of the future Chained Library visits for Civic Society members. IR to follow up on a visit to Shepton Mallet prison.

- iv. Meet and Greet arrangements for 11th May evening meeting: Committee members who attend are asked to meet and greet members, especially anyone on their own. JT offered to do meet and greet on the door.
- v. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** 5th June – on the Cathedral Green. We will have a stall to sell the trees etc. CW to email everyone re volunteering time on the day at the stall. WCS has sponsored the St Johns Ambulance at the event.
- vi. **Civic Society Jubilee**: a special event to start the new season in September was suggested, which will be discussed further. JJ offered his band, Junk Male, to play at the event.
- vii. **Heritage Open Days** 9 - 18 September: CW has met with Antonia Gwynn regarding coordinating the programme of events. The theme this year is Invention and Innovation, which should engage more organisations and people than last year.

8. Treasurer's report: IR reported:

"We have a current account balance of just over £906 (down from £1,473 as at 10th April), and £7,032 in the reserve account (no change).

Subscriptions to date total £1,765.

We have incurred three main expenditures in the past month:

- 1. £493 to St Andrew's Press to print a batch of plaque trail leaflets
- 2. £180 to Glide Media to distribute WCS brochures
- 3. £350 contribution to St John's Ambulance to cover the Queen's Jubilee events.

While our expenditure this year will exceed our income, we started with a decent surplus courtesy of lockdowns last year. So we will still end the year with money in the current account, albeit rather less than we had at the start of the year."

9. Plaques update: JJ reported:

- i. Health Centre: No further progress on this.
- ii. Chamberlain Street: Having spoken to a planning officer, the application has now been resubmitted.

10. City Council projects update

- i. **Portway Annexe**: 14th May 11 – 2 pm opening launch.
- ii. **Recreation Ground & Bishops Barn**: no report
- iii. **Signage & bollards**: no report but it was noted that the planters are in place in the Market Place, although with no plants yet.
- iv. **Neighbourhood Plan**: no report

11. Planning Report. no report

12. Any other business:

- i. On 15th May from 2 – 5pm there will be an "Open Studio" event for Wells in Mosaic; tea and cake available, entry £1 plus donations please.
- ii. 16th July 10.00 at the Connect Centre - Nifty and Thrifty: A celebration of local food.
- iii. Plaque Leaflets update – JJ reported that the leaflets displayed at the Bishops Palace are being taken, he will check with Glide Media that they are being replenished.
- iv. JJ's "Monmouth Rebellion" *play* will be reprised at the Jubilee celebrations on June 5th but he needs two additional 'prisoners'. IR volunteered his services.

13. Date of next meeting: 7th June 2022 at 2.00 pm Exmoor Room at the Swan Hotel.

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the
Committee Meeting held on 12th April 2022

Present: Pam Crummay, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson, Jules Tresidder, Philip Welch, Chris Winter and Guest: Gerry Clark

1. **Apologies:** Patrick Brown, Adrian l'Anson and Doug Robinson.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting (8th February 2022):** Agreed
3. **Matters arising:** None
4. **Chair's report (CW)**
 - i. **Membership update:** There is still a vacancy for a Membership Secretary. Current membership is 167 personal members.
 - ii. **Committee roles:** CW asked committee members to be more proactive at the evening meetings in terms of greeting and talking to members, especially those on their own, and to ensure that everyone is safe returning home.
 - iii. **Trees & Environment:** Gerry Clark was welcomed and outlined his past activities and interests, in particular his background in horticultural. Members of the committee introduced themselves to GC. CW explained the background of the role and areas in which GC might help.

This included the donation of 30 oak saplings to WCS for the "Plant a tree for the Jubilee" initiative, which it was proving very difficult to find a home for. The saplings will need care for some time before they can be planted in a final location. A suggestion was made that they could be offered for 'adoption' on a stall at the Jubilee celebrations on 5th June. This was **agreed** and PW/CW would arrange for a stall on the Cathedral Green.

GC agreed to help generally in terms of the green environment of Wells in the Trees and Environment role. CW thanked GC and explained that he could be 'co-opted' by the Committee until the AGM when he could be elected by the members if he wished. **All agreed.** GC and his wife Theresa will become members of the Civic Society.
 - iv. **Events / speakers:**
 - Professor David Thomas will be speaking on 13th April.
 - 11th May – Somerset Day: no speakers were available from Orchard Pig or Thatcher's; PW suggested Alan Stone, author and cider maker and CW agreed to this follow up.
 - 8th June & 13th July: CW is arranging for Dr Philip Hickman to speak about "History & Architecture of the Cathedral" and a representative from the Wells Cathedral Organ Appeal to speak on these days – to be confirmed.
 - Extending the programme into July might compensate for the lost time due to the pandemic. There is also usually a "Summer Social" which might be included over the next three months.
 - There were further discussions about setting up additional events: eg: the High Parts Tours and the Chained Library at the Cathedral. JT agreed to list the available dates to encourage bookings at the next meeting on 13th April.
 - v. **Jubilee Celebrations:** CW had spoken to Cllr Steward Cursley regarding a financial contribution to the events planned by the City Council. It was proposed that we sponsor St John's Ambulance for their attendance at the events on 5th June which will cost £345.60. This was **agreed.**
5. **Treasurer's report:** IR reported:

"We have a current account balance of just over £1,473 (down from £2,046 as at the end of February), and £7,032 in the reserve account (down from £9,032, also as at the end of February).

Subscriptions to date of £1,745 have now exceeded last year's total of £1,730.

Expenditures have picked up in the last month. Not only have we had more meetings at the Museum, but we have made three donations:

1. £250 to the Museum to fund trees as part of the renovation of the Museum gardens
2. £250 for the "Shops of Wells" exhibition
3. £500 to the Lawrence Centre to fund railway sleepers that now form a facing for the garden and prevent cars from encroaching.

As agreed, a further 8,000 Plaques Trail leaflets have been printed, at a cost of £493. 5,000 of these will be distributed widely by Glide Media, at a cost of £180; this invoice is not yet reflected in the attached accounts.

WCS has also made a further £2,000 donation to Wells in Mosaic, as previously agreed. As you can see from the reduced balance in the reserve account above, the funds were transferred from that, thus not affecting the current account balance."

6. Plaques update: JJ reported:

- i. Health Centre: There is permission from the owner for a plaque but he has not yet begun the process of gaining planning permission.
- ii. Chamberlain Street: Although there is permission from the owner of the building, gaining planning permission is proving complicated. Various statements and design drawings have been requested by MDC. JJ asked whether it might be possible to engage a professional to complete the application. CW suggested that JJ might speak to a Planning Officer for clarification, and to AIA who has a background in planning and contacts at MDC.
- iii. Dulcote cycle path: it had been agreed that rather than a WCS plaque, CW would suggest to Sustrans, Ross Young and the artist that if they wished to put up a plaque, WCS might make a financial contribution.
- iv. Plaque leaflets: the leaflets are now on display in the Bishop's Palace entrance and a number of other local and regional locations (see 5. above). JJ noted that on the leaflet design the most important title section should in future be moved higher up the page as currently it can be masked by the leaflet rack.
- v. Neighbourhood App "Next door": JJ suggested this might be a useful tool in requesting help with the plaque planning permission (6.i & ii above); it was **agreed** that he input information to see if this would create any interest in this task, and membership in general.

7. City Council projects update PW reported:

- i. **Portway Annexe:** progress is good on the project and there should be an opening date announced in the next few weeks.
- ii. **Recreation Ground & Bishops Barn:** The transfer of ownership was progressing, but Charities Commission approval could take some time.
- iii. **Signage & bollards:** no report
- iv. **Neighbourhood Plan:** no report
- v. **Planning report:** no report

8. Any other business:

- i. PW asked committee members to publicise the Mayor's Dinner Dance for Macmillan Cancer Support on 30th April; tickets are £20 including dinner. Two bands are playing including Junk Mail with JJ.
- ii. PC agreed to deputise for the Chair at the Civic Opening of the 821st Wells Charter Fair on 7th May 2022.
- iii. On 15th May from 2 – 5pm there will be an "Open Studio" event for Wells in Mosaic; tea and cake available, entry £1 plus donations please.
- iv. 16th July 10.00 at the Connect Centre - Nifty and Thrifty: A celebration of local food.

9. Date of next meeting: 10th May 2022 2.00pm Exmoor Room at the Swan Hotel

Wells Civic Society
Committee Meeting 8 February 2022

Minutes

Present: Pam Crummay, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson, Jules Tresidder, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

- 1. Apologies:** Patrick Brown, Adrian l'Anson, Doug Robinson.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting (30th November 2021):** Agreed
- 3. Matters arising:** None
- 4. Chair's Report (CW) including**
 - i. **Membership update:** 154 personal members and 4 corporate members as it stands with possibly a new member after 9th February 2022 meeting.
 - ii. **Committee Roles:**
 - It was agreed that Jules Tresidder should be appointed as Honorary Secretary. CW to contact Charities Commission to make the necessary changes to the committee (including recent resignations).
 - The roles of Membership Secretary and Programme Secretary are still vacant. However, CW and IR would manage the membership for the time being. The programme of talks could be a rollover plan that has input from ALL the committee to be responsible to help to book speakers for future meetings. (*See vi. Events below for further discussion*)
 - It would be helpful if all committee members actively encouraged people to join and to spread the word regarding the Civic Society.
 - The trees and the environment role is vacant. JT nominated Gerry Clark to come along to the next committee meeting as he has expressed an interest in helping. (*see iii. below*)
 - iii. **Trees & Environment:**
 - JT mentioned that Gerry and his wife would also like to donate trees that may be planted in the Portway Annexe garden. The City Council now own the building and have plans for the garden, so he will need to talk to the PA management committee, and / or Cllr Denise Denis and the new Sustainability Officer, at the Town Hall.
 - JT also had an offer of 30 oak saplings for free. CW and JT to collect them from Coxley on 9 February. CW agreed to contact Wells Voice to appeal for an area within Wells for the Platinum Jubilee planting.¹
 - Donations of £250 for the planting of trees at the Museum Garden and £500 to the Lawrence Centre to buy the sleepers to edge the garden adjacent to the car park have been made. Both have expressed their gratitude to the society for this support.
 - iv. CW added that the agreed donation of £250 to the Museum towards the forthcoming photographic exhibition has also been made.
 - v. **Response to MDC consultation:** All agreed that we should be supportive of the MDC Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) proposal, as it addressed many wide-ranging concerns about planning and development in and around Wells. JJ expressed concern that there should be more emphasis on design and the use of locally sourced building materials. It was agreed that CW would send the response on behalf of the Society reflecting these views.

¹ As these trees are very small and young, they could not be planted in their final location for some time and will need an interim 'nursery' location where they can be looked after until they can be planted out in an open space.

vi. **Events:**

- JJ agreed to approach a contact to talk about the Cathedral architecture in March or April, and IR to contact David Thomas, who is Emeritus Professor of Christian and Islamic studies at the University of Birmingham, but to relate his talk to Wells, for either March or April, depending on their availability.
- PC suggested we celebrate Somerset Day on May 11th, which is the second Wednesday of the month and could therefore be one of the evening events. Suggestions included a talk by one of the independent local cidemakers (eg Thatchers) or a Cider Tasting Outdoor Party, weather permitting.
- Evening talks and/or events need to be confirmed for the coming months; these could include:
 - a. conservators/ recent work on the West Front (*as above*)
 - b. David Thomas on Islam and Christianity (*as above*)
 - c. The Old Convent in Chamberlain Street
 - d. David Morgan-Hewitt, Chair of the Friends of the Wells Cathedral Organ Appeal
 - e. Visit to Shepton Mallet Prison
 - f. Visit to the Chained Library
 - g. A High Places Tour of the Cathedral
 - h. Kylie Gallagher from Children's Hospice South West
 - i. The Lord Lieutenant Annie Maw
 - j. The High Sheriff
- Concern was expressed about moving too far away from the main aims and ideas of the Civic Society with some of these speakers or events. IR suggested that the focus of the Civic Society should include culture as well as the historic built environment.

vi **Marking the Jubilee:**

- PW asked whether the CS would consider making a donation to the City's celebration of the **Queen's Jubilee** on 5th June. It was agreed that a specific event or cost (eg St John's Ambulance) might be sponsored. CW agreed to contact Stewart Cursley who is treasurer of the Jubilee Committee.
- Regarding the **WCS Jubilee**, this will need further consideration.

vii **Meet and Greet/ Buddying:**

CW stressed that all committee members should be ambassadors of the Society and meet and greet guests when they arrive and check in on whether people were okay going home alone and a goodnight too.

She had spoken to Christopher Bond regarding a suggestion to work with WCN volunteers but both agreed that looking at this 'in house' initially was preferable.

CW would include information about this when contacting members with the information about evening meetings. For tomorrow's meeting there were two responses, but hopefully the idea will take root.

5. Treasurer's report:

IR reported that the Society continues in good financial health. With further membership renewals due this month, we may even exceed last year's membership subs. total, which in turn increases the return from Gift Aid.

6. Plaques update

- i. **Health Centre / Priory Road building:** JJ has now done extensive research and been in touch with the Head Office in Stockport of NHS Properties. A case number has now been issued and awaiting further action.

- ii. **Chamberlain Street:** PW to send the paperwork which has already been prepared to JJ. Arnold Wills, who owns the Pilgrim Finance building, will also need to be contacted to ensure he is still happy for this to go ahead, and to seek Planning Permission.
- iii. **Dulcote Railway Bridge / Cycle path:** the committee vote was 5:/5. CW to have final vote and it was 'yes' - to go ahead. The type of plaque was under discussion and it was considered that maybe a stone with a poem by the sculptor of the Flying Figures under the bridge or a historical and railway reference would be more appropriate. Signefex in Midsomer Norton, who supply the plaques, can provide a variety of materials. This could be jointly funded by Sustrans which is responsible for the cycle path and commissioned the sculptures. CW and JJ to investigate further.

7. City Council projects update

- i. **Portway Annexe:** (PW). The groundwork and building works were going ahead well and car parking spaces may be rented out to generate income. Some damp had been discovered inside and decoration work was on hold until this was rectified. IR also mentioned that Strode College would be utilising the facilities at the Annexe and wanted to push that forward.
- ii. **Recreation Ground and Bishops Barn** (PW) It has been agreed in principle that ownership would pass to Wells City Council (WCC). The date is dependent on the response from the Charities Commission. There would be remuneration from Mendip D C to WCC of £5,000 for car park revenue, £30,000 for maintaining the grounds and the £525,000² Trust Fund. JJ suggested that some of the trees could be replaced with the donated oak trees. It was acknowledged that the cost of bringing the Barn back into use could be very high and CW suggested that the Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust should be asked to renovate and repurpose the Barn as they have such a good track record of similar projects.
- iii. **Signage:** PW suggested Cllr Jenny Rust should be contacted about this. It was agreed that **the new bollards** in the Market Place are a huge improvement on the red and white barriers. PW said that planters would be added to enhance the area.
- iv. **Neighbourhood Plan:** AIA not available to report.
- v. **Planning:** AIA not available to report.

8. AOB

- i. **Plaque Leaflets:** JJ had found out that the leaflet stands in the Cathedral and Bishops Palace were maintained by Glide Media. Glide Media covers a huge area around Wells as well for £225 for 3 months or £250 for 6 months. Up to 7,000 leaflets would be distributed in locations across a wide region and at seven locations in Wells. It was agreed that if we were to use this facility to raise the profile of the Society and encourage more people to use the plaque trail, the leaflet would need to be revised and reprinted.
- ii. JJ expressed a wish for the members' meetings that the doors would still be kept open for ventilation and masks should be actively encouraged to be worn at the events for the time being.
- iii. It was agreed that the Exmoor Room at the Swan Hotel was a good venue for committee meetings. Thanks to Mark Tobin for his generosity and to JT for arranging it.

9. Date of next meeting: 8th March 2022, Exmoor Room, Swan Hotel, 2.00pm.

Please purchase drinks (and cake!) on the way in at the front of the hotel, in the Gin Bar. All cups and saucers, plates and glasses to be returned to the bar after the meeting. Heating and lighting switched off and inform the bar staff that we have finished with the room.

² Amount to be checked and confirmed

APPENDIX

There were a few items I did not have time to update you on – my AOB:

- i. **Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust (SBPT)** (of which the society is a member) has been in touch as they are working with The South West Heritage Trust to compile a Local Heritage List for Somerset, and have asked for our contribution. This could take the form of nominating specific buildings or sharing the draft local list that we had been working on for many years. This was passed on to the Neighbourhood Plan project and I am not sure if we can share our version – as this may not be the final one. I will have to wait for Adrian to return from sunning himself, and have a word with him!
- ii. The editor of **Somerset Life** has also contacted me regarding including articles about Wells and Wells Civic Society. I am meeting with her later this month, and will keep you posted.
- iii. **Wells in Bloom** – as we did briefly discuss, this has been taken back 'in house' by the City Council which some of the volunteers are quite sad about, as it was an amazing community effort. Silvia Hanks sent me a letter which she asked me to share with you, thanking the Civic Society for our support over many years. (attached)
- iv. **Museum photographic exhibition** - as agreed, we have made a donation of £250 to this project.
- v. **Millennium images** – as agreed I took samples of the Millennium photos to D H James in Sadler Street, who was able to scan them and would be happy to do this with the whole collection. We would then be able to a) archive them in digital form and b) have them printed in whatever number / size / form we wanted in the future. We have also agreed that these will be exhibited at the museum as part of the May event.
- vi. **Museum Garden Trees** – as agreed, we have made a donation of £250 to the purchase of trees for the garden. I took some photographs of the garden this morning and it really is transformed, and should look amazing when more of the plants and trees have matured. The trustees have expressed their gratitude for both these contributions and for our ongoing support.
- vii. **Lawrence Centre Garden project** – we agreed a donation of £500 for railway sleepers to edge the bank/edge of the car park. Maggie Charlesworth has said how grateful she, and the team working on improving the gardens are for this, and members are very welcome to visit at any time. I have taken some 'before' images and we'll arrange a photo opportunity and some publicity for this and the Museum garden when we can.
- viii. **Alliance of Cathedral Cities and Historic Towns (ACT)** research into balancing heritage and housing growth: this is reaching the completion of the draft report stage which will be submitted to Historic England (the funders) before being widely circulated – including to case study participants. There are many interesting findings and recommendations – some predictable, some which could be very useful to us working with the planning authority in the future. There may be an opportunity to bring together some of the ACT team, MDC officers & councillors and WCS for a mini conference too.

WCS

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 8th June 2021

Present: Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson, Hilary Waters, Philip Welch and Chris Winter

Apologies: Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham and Doug Robinson

1. Welcome & thanks

CW thanked Rosemary for her hospitality and all those who had remained engaged and helped to keep the society ticking over during the pandemic.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (10 November)

CW apologised for circulating the February 2020 minutes instead of those for November. (Attached herewith) IR referred to his copy and gave an oral résumé. **Agreed.**

3. Matters arising not covered on the agenda

JJ referred to previous discussions regarding signage around the city, which had not been addressed further. It was agreed that in many cases the signs were either unsightly or unnecessary – or both, and detracted from the attractiveness of the city.

As the signs could be the responsibility of either Somerset CC, Mendip DC or Wells CC it was suggested that CW should write to the leaders of each to express our concern and to suggest that this might be addressed, but PW suggested that a presentation could be made to the next City Council meeting, at which representatives of MDC and SCC were also likely to be present, as would Andy Vallis from Wells Voice.

JJ & CW **agreed** to prepare a presentation and ask to speak at the meeting on 24th June.¹

4. Committee roles and responsibilities

Having canvassed committee members' views on the future of the Society, CW stressed that future plans and activities must be based on our ability to resource them – ie: people willing to carry out the necessary tasks involved in the activities, not continuing to rely on a small number of people.

Discussion about the future included:

- The importance of regular – or at least *frequent* – events for members.
- Events could be varied and not always be 'just' a talk.
- Covid restrictions are likely to be in place for some time yet and these could limit the number of people that may gather together and restrict offering refreshments.
- Some members are not as likely to engage electronically and like to meet in person, socially.
- It is likely that some members may not be inclined or not able to return to events as presented pre-covid.
- There is no-one currently to organise a programme of events. Talks etc have been organised by the Chair and Membership Secretary for the last few years.
- One-off events, held frequently but not regularly, could be considered, as long as someone is willing to organise these.
- We need to engage a wider, new audience, and potential new members. PB suggested talks *in series* might encourage this.
- A range of different, well publicised, events might interest a wider public.
- CW is meeting with two members who responded to the recent e-newsletter saying they would like to get more involved.

¹ The Town Clerk was contacted and has added this to the agenda for the full council meeting on 24th June.

- Combining with another organisation (eg: U3A) was also discussed; which has its pros and cons.

CW suggested that in the current covid-uncertain times, we need a short, medium and long-term plan. **It was agreed** to:

- Make the most of opportunities offered through our involvement in activities and events already planned for this summer / autumn (6. below)
- Aim to present a plan, with a committed committee, to the AGM in November for the year ahead - 2022
- Re-assess the situation in the light of these experiences and consider all options for the future – including combining with A N Other.

5. Role of President

Sadly, our President, Bishop Peter Hancock, has taken early retirement due to ill health and CW received a letter confirming that he would therefore no longer be able to fulfil this role. CW proposed that we either: a) wait for the appointment of a new Bishop of Bath & Wells and invite him or her to become our President – in the long-standing tradition; or b) invite Bishop Ruth to take up the role in the interim.

It was agreed unanimously that we should wait and approach the newly appointed Bishop when appropriate.

6. Events for 2021:

- Community Day 24th July:** A stand has been booked in the Cathedral and it is important that the Civic Society should be represented and maintain a good profile locally CW asked for volunteers to help on the day. GB & RE offered to support this. As well as stalls and displays in the Cathedral there would be a 'Big Picnic' on Cathedral Green and activities at the Bishop's Palace.
- Monmouth Pageant:** JJ explained his proposal for a short piece of street theatre which could take place at various forthcoming events. After an enthusiastic response from Richard Wright, former chair of the Little Theatre, unfortunately other members did not show an interest in becoming involved. However, with support from IR and GB, it could be possible to put it on as a solely WCS enterprise. CB suggested a costume supplier in Frome. JJ to take this forward with a view to a debut performance on 24th July.
- Summer Social:** CW said that she had been hopeful that this could go ahead in the Museum Gardens, but it was agreed that a decision should be delayed until there is greater certainty about covid restrictions. It would also be weather dependent, as it is very unlikely that it could be held inside.
- Heritage Open Days 10 – 19th September:** Julia Wood asked CW to coordinate HOD in Wells this year. She has already had meetings with representatives from the Bishop's Palace, the Cathedral, the Almshouses and St Cuthbert's regarding their plans for events around the food theme. The Town Hall has indicated that unfortunately the council will not be able to participate. CW aims to encourage restaurant and café owners in historic buildings to take part too. Antonia Gwynne is helping to create a flier for distribution, and an article will appear in Wells Voice next month. A programme of events will be produced for residents and visitors, and these will also appear on the national HOD website. www.heritageopendays.org.uk

- e. **AGM – 10th November:** WCS is obliged by the Charity Commission to hold this meeting, and it will hopefully be face-to-face this year. As 4. above, we should aim to present a sustainable plan to members, for the following year, at this meeting.

7. **Plaques Trail leaflet:** CW & JJ have been progressing the idea for a combined WCS leaflet and Plaques Trail leaflet. St Andrews Press has quoted £416 for 7000 A4 trifold leaflet, plus design work, in order to produce high quality promotional material. This could be widely distributed to residents and visitors to encourage exploration of the city and its history, as well as promoting the Society.
PW added that Project Factory is planning to produce a local information booklet, and the Plaques Trail might be included in this.

8. Reports from committee members:

- a. **Finance** – IR reported that the situation was stable as there had been no outgoings, apart from recent renewal of the web-server (£205.50).
b. **Membership** – CB reported membership at c140; renewals are due in October and January.
c. **Planning, Neighbourhood Plan, Local Listing** – AIA submitted a written report recently for the e-news:

“Last month a Planning Inspector held a hearing to consider the refusal of a proposal to build 148 housing units west of Underwood Quarry (2019/1883). His decision may also influence the future of two recent refusals - 90 units west of Bovis Homes on Wookey Hole Road (2020/0484) and 68 units north of Elm Close (2020/2217). We wait with baited breath!

“The Wells Neighbourhood Plan is wending its way and, following consultation, hopefully will be made at the end of this year.”

- d. **Trees & environment** – RE reported:
- that the dead tree by the moat should be removed / replaced soon
- one of the sequoia trees on Palace Fields has probably died
- the play area is generally clean and tidy.
- e. **Plaques** – PW suggested that the next two plaques should be placed on
i) Chamberlain Street (Arnold Wills the owner of the building on the corner of this and Sadler Street should be contacted) and
ii) the former workhouse – now the Health Centre.
He would pass information to JJ to continue this project, which CB agreed to support with research and PB with architectural drawings etc.

- f. **Website / facebook** – DR’s written report stated:

“... attracting younger people to the society via the website, it does need to be aimed at viewing using a mobile rather than with a desktop computer, which is what my experience has been related to. Also, while I could maintain the existing style of the WCS website, anything planned in the onwards view requiring more regular modification of the site I would find time-wise quite a task.”

CW suggested that someone who could take this forward was needed if the Society was to attract new members.

9. AOB

PB reminded members there would be a public meeting about the future of the Bishops Barn on 9th June, which he would be unable to attend. CW said she would attend.

10. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 13th July (**NOT 8TH!**) at 2pm – venue tbc

WCS

Minutes of the meeting held

at 2pm on 13th July 2021

Present:

Graham Barrow, Rosemary Evans, Adrian l'Anson, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies:** Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Doug Robinson, Hilary Waters and Philip Welch
Andrew Fawcett has indicated that he is unable to continue to serve on the committee
John Rackham has not replied to any emails nor has his membership been renewed for 2020/21.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting (8th June 2021)** Agreed

3. **Matters arising** None, not covered by the agenda.

4. Officers' reports

- i. Chair: CW had included comments with the circulated agenda.
- ii. Treasurer: IR had circulated an up-to-date spreadsheet. He added that a Public Liability insurance policy has been set up with Zurich at a cost of £96 pa.
- iii. Trees and environment: RE had reported a number of issues to Bo Walsh (Tree Officer for MDC) and had hoped to speak to him at the Wells City Council meeting on 15th July, but AIA advised that he is unable to attend but it is hoped that he will on 29th July.
Evidently the dead tree along Moat Walk is the responsibility of the Church Commission and AIA would provide RE with contact details for the agent (Savills).
He also recommended that she contact Simon Nash regarding unkept footpaths.
The incursion of "Serious Stage" onto the East Mendip Way footpath at Tor Woods is being addressed by AIA via MDC.

5. Plaques Trail leaflet update

Images and text had been sent to St Andrews Press, who will be working on the design this week, with a view to preparing the leaflets for distribution by 24th July at the Community Day event. It was agreed that the expenditure was worthwhile. The leaflets would also be made available at various outlets in the city, for visitors and residents.¹

6. Signage – update

CW's presentation to the City Council on 24th June was well received and councillors from all three councils agreed to progress a survey of signage. AIA agreed to remind them and help to take this forward.

7. Next edition of e-news

CW asked for contributions to the next e-newsletter for members, which she hoped would maintain interest even though dates / events could not yet be confirmed for future meetings. GB said that when delivering some copies of the last e-news by hand he was able to get a few more email addresses. This means that a large majority of members have now provided these.

8. Future Events

i. Community Day 24th July

CW said she is preparing an exhibition for the stand in the Cathedral and will ensure that leaflets and membership forms are available. Any help on the day would be appreciated.

¹ CW will also ask DRG to make the leaflet available to download from the website if possible.

ii. **Monmouth Pageant 24th July**

JJ reported that rehearsals were going well with six players involved, who will be giving three performances during the day. He felt that this part of history should be better known in Wells, and CW suggested that the performance might be repeated on other occasions at other venues. AIA suggested that not everyone agreed that it was part of Wells' history that should be dwelt upon, as it was particularly barbaric.

iii. **Summer Social – When? Where?**

There was lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of organising an event, as the covid situation was likely to remain unclear for sometime and members are likely to be cautious about meeting in large groups.

However, it was agreed that CW would talk to the Museum about possible dates in early September for an event in the garden, but to make a final decision next month. She also agreed to check the diary of city events to avoid clashes and / or combine with another event.

JJ suggested that members might be invited to bring a guest(s) with a view to increasing membership; which all agreed was a good idea.

iv. **Heritage Open Days 10th – 19th September**

CW reported that she is working with Antonia Gwynn to prepare leaflets, and co-ordinating events with the city's heritage destinations, as well as planning to invite café and restaurant owners in historic buildings to take part. It was suggested that Patrick might have old photos of some of these buildings, so might Clare.

CW would be approaching the City Council to see if they might help with printing or printing costs as there is no budget for the event and the Council is not able to participate as usual this year.

v. **Talks:**

As iii. above: until we are sure that we can expect an audience, we might look for potential speakers and plan occasional events / talks but not commit to a regular monthly programme.

9. AGM / committee

New blood is needed and this needs to be resolved by November, in particular to meet the legal requirements of the Charities Commission.

CW will include an appeal to members in the e-newsletter.

She has already met with Pam Crummay and Tara Roberts who have expressed an interest in supporting activities, but have not committed to join the committee.

RE suggested talking to members of other organisations who might be interested (eg: U3A / Gardening Club).

10. AOB

a) AIA reported:

- i. He and Cllr Rust will be working with SCC on the *Bus Back Better* initiative; they are in the process of carrying out a survey at the bus station.
- ii. He is part of the Cathedral "Common Good" group working with Julia Wood (Archivist), Rob James (Chancellor) and David Thomas (theological academic).
- iii. The Gormley statue, due to be installed at the West Front at the end of August, is causing some controversy, but is also an opportunity. Richard Long, (a sculptor who lives and works in Bristol) has links with Gormley and together with those in ii. above might be asked to give talks to members.
- iv. Portway Annexe: the *pre-submission application* to the Minister (for the loan to buy the building) has been agreed. There will be a consultation both online and by leafleting and an open day is being planned for 31st July from 10am – 4pm.

- v. The Old Deanery has been withdrawn from the market and the Diocesan office is considering its future. The recently appointed Diocesan Secretary has resigned and a consultant has been appointed.
 - vi. The City Council is working to identify 'gaps' in terms of its acquisitions strategy, as it is also managing the transfer of ownership of the Bishops Barn and the Recreation Ground from MDC to the City.
- b) **IR suggested** that the Society might take a more active role in *Wells in Bloom* to which we have recently made our annual donation of £245; there was a suggestion that more insect-friendly plants might be used. Planting is currently managed by the City Council Open Spaces team, and RE suggested that they were doing a very good job and it was agreed, after discussion, that it was not appropriate to encroach on this matter.

11. Date of the next meeting: 10th August (tbc)

CW thanked RE for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

Ends 4pm

Wells Civic Society
Committee Meeting Minutes
of the meeting held on
10th August 2021

Present: Graham Barrow, Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson, Philip Welch & Chris Winter

- 1. Apologies** for absence: Clare Blackmore, Adrian l'Anson, Doug Robinson & Hilary Waters,
- 2. Minutes** of the last meeting (13th July) - Agreed
- 3. Matters arising** (not covered on the agenda) – None
- 4. Chair's report**

- i. Community Day – well attended (under Covid circumstances)

including Monmouth Pageant: this was very well received and helped communicate the significance of Wells during the rebellion of 1685. Thanks to Wells Little Theatre for the loan of costumes. We have been requested to perform again at St Cuthbert's Community Day on Sunday Sept 12.

- ii. Plaques, Trail leaflet & criteria

JJ reported that the request to mount a plaque or plaques on the old Workhouse was favourably received and William Newey (Facilities Officer of NHS Somerset Foundation Trust) is checking the listed building status and will report back to us.

Plaque Trails Leaflet: JJ recorded congratulations to CW for getting the leaflets printed for the Community Day, and she thanked him for this help. Leaflets are now available at The White Hart, The Swan, The TIC, The Town Hall, The Bishop's Palace, The Cathedral and the Museum.

Terracotta plaques: Philip reported that Black Dog have a number of spare plaques. We should acquire these asap and make an appropriate donation. CW will arrange to pick these up from Philippa Threlfall.

It was agreed that the criteria, as drafted by JJ should be used for future plaques.

- iii. Heritage Open Days 10-19th September

CW is working with Antonia Gwynn (at St Cuthbert's) on fliers to alert the general public and the owners of businesses in historic buildings in and around the Market Place, High Street and streets off, to encourage participation in events, as well as those already taking part – the Bishops Palace, the Museum, the Cathedral and St Cuthbert's church.

- iv. Friends of Wells Cathedral organ appeal

The appeal will be launched at an event to be held on 30th September¹, and CW had been asked for committee members' contact details for invitations; all present agreed to this.

The appeal is for funds to repair and renovate the Cathedral organ.

5. Membership

Several new members have joined recently and CW has circulated a newsletter by email, and GB will deliver paper copies to members who do not use email. ²

¹ This has been moved back to a date in November tbc

² DR has also added this to the website

6. Financial report

IR reported a positive balance sheet with few outgoings apart from Liability Insurance and the plaques trail leaflet.³

7. Trees and environment

RE has recently contacted Bo Walsh from MDC and Simon Nash, but has been unable to make much progress.

8. Planning

i. AIA: *"Nothing to report on planning although Bo Walsh (MDC) is, hopefully, coming to our WCC Planning Committee meeting on the 2nd of September."*

ii. Portway Annexe update:

PW reported that the Secretary of State had given a 'yes, in principle' response to the loan application, and that the head teachers at local schools and colleges (ie: Strode) are "on board".

IR (who is a member of the Portway Annex Project Team) reported that the Open Day on 31st July was well attended and many expressed support for a 'community hub'. Extensive surveying of residents is taking place, together with the development of a business plan, criteria for usage and a management plan.

iii. Signage:

In response to the presentation CW gave to the City Council, AIA said: *"I promise to work with you and Cllr Jenny Rust (WCC) and, I hope Cllr Tessa Munt (SCC), re signage but we should wait until September."*

9. Events

- i. Wells in Mosaic: CW, PW & IR were presented with the blue lias stone carved with "Wells Civic Society" on 13th August in recognition of the contribution by the Society to the project; this was reported in Wells Voice.
- ii. Summer social: several options were discussed, including alternative venues. CW, CB, JJ and RE agreed to take this forward.
- iii. Talks: it is too early to resume regular events (due to the ongoing Covid situation) but for the future these would be considered: Gormley installation / cathedral renovation; St Cuthbert's church including Tower Tour; St Thomas history etc.

10. AOB

PB expressed disappointment with the state of the Market Place – in particular the use of the unsightly barriers. PW responded that the City Council were working on this but vehicular access to the Bishops Palace had to be maintained at all time.

11. Date of next meeting: 14th September tbc

³ Zurich Insurance £9.60 per month
St Andrews Press £354.20 design & print 1000; £255 print further 2000 copies.

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee Meeting
14th September 2021

Present:

Clare Blackmore, Rosemary Evans, Adrian l'Anson, Doug Robinson, Ian Robinson & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies for absence:** Graham Barrow, Patrick Brown, Jon Jefferies & Philip Welch
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** - 10th August (attached) – agreed
3. **Matters arising** (not covered on the agenda) - none
4. **Chair's report**
 - i. **Preparation for the AGM:**
 - It was agreed that this would take place on November 10th. CW would prepare an agenda and notify members.
 - IR agreed to arrange for examination of the accounts.
 - CW had received notification that Hilary Waters and Andrew Fawcett would not be standing for re-election. Clare Blackmore said that she also found it necessary to stand down due to other commitments.
 - It was agreed that John Rackham, who had not paid membership fees for two years and had not been able to perform the duties of an Honorary Secretary, would be notified that someone else will be asked to fill the post.
 - The social meeting on 29th September will be a good opportunity for CW to ask for more involvement from members as, without it, the Society would no longer be able to function.
 - ii. **Plaques**

JJ reports:

 - He is still chasing and waiting for the ok from the work house for the blue plaque.
 - Leaflet distribution continues and he has leaflets if anyone wants some.
5. **Membership update**
 - CB reported that, despite our lack of meetings, several new members have joined.
 - CW said she was grateful to GB for delivering newsletters to members whose email addresses we did not have and for obtaining these! We now have almost 100%. Although some do not respond to electronic communications, it is economically and practically the best method with the limited resources available.
6. **Financial report**

IR reported “no change” as there has been neither expenditure nor income in the last month.
7. **Trees and environment**
 - RE reported that one of the two sequoia trees in Palace Fields is almost certainly dead, despite our best efforts. CW suggested that the fencing around it should be removed and would contact either James Cross or Michael Phelps.
 - AIA reported that he had been in contact with Steve Cauldfield¹ regarding the bund on the East Mendip Way adjacent to Serious Stages, which seems to be encroaching on the footpath/public right of way. It is an MDC planning issue which he will pursue.
 - AIA has also been in contact with the Forestry Commission regarding trees between Strawberry Wood² and the golf course; a re-stocking notice will be served.

¹ Unlikely to be the correct name / spelling – happy to be corrected CW

² ditto

8. Planning

i. Portway Annexe update

- IR reported that the survey which had been carried out showed c85% support for the purchase of the building by the City Council.
- It also showed many supported “the opportunity to improve the lives of others” which was encouraging.
- In terms of potential uses these were ranked: 1. Further education 2. Workshops 3. Music 4. Rooms for hire
- The next stage will be to ask local groups for more information about how/if they might use the building, and how much they might be prepared to pay.
- CB made the point that the many other venues available for community activities should not be disadvantaged by plans for the development of PA. It was suggested that there was ‘enough for all’ and venues should work together to develop a best fit for everyone.
- AIA said that from the point of view of the City Council this presented a good opportunity for councillors to work with others with a range of skills and expertise.
- He added that 66 people had responded that they would like to become more involved, and
- Many issues were being followed up, including branding, a café, the food bank and music bands.
- He said that venues could be complementary and that there were no community facilities on the west side of Wells, which is where many young families would be living in the new housing developments.

ii. Signage

AIA reported that there had been no further action by city council.

iii. Neighbourhood Plan update

- AIA reported that the project is behind schedule due to few people being involved in its development, however he is working with MDC and the public consultation is expected to take place in about six weeks time.
- AIA is also talking to MDC about a ‘Regenerate the High Street’ bid.

9. Summer social: 6pm on 29th September at the Museum

- Following the email invitations to members, CW has had bookings for 31 people to date
- JJ has two potential new members attending and CW has invited two other non-members she has recently met.
- IR agreed to buy wine / fizz and strawberries
- CW would buy shortbread, cream etc
- Others also agreed to arrive at the museum at 5pm to help to set up
- The garden would be used if the weather allows.

10. AOB

- i. RE raised a concern, which is shared by many, about the number of city councillors who have resigned recently – from the point of view of the expense incurred by by-elections and the instability of the council. It was agreed that this is very unfortunate but 1) there are often very good reasons for councillors’ resignations (ill health, moved away etc) but some failed to understand the commitment they were undertaking; 2) there was little the electorate could do until they were presented with the choices on the ballot paper; 3) so few people come forward as potential candidates, selection is quite limited; 4) co-option, which is the alternative to a by-election, can become political and then ceases to be attractive to councillors.
- ii. There was also concern expressed about the lack of opportunity for the public to speak at council meetings, which was discussed briefly. IR pointed out that more people can become involved if they want to, through the committees, especially on particular projects, like the Portway Annexe.

- iii. AIA reported that Cllr Laura Walters (MDC) was concerned about the Old City Wall which is adjacent to Union Street and bounds the garden behind Waterstones. The wall is in a state of disrepair and rats have been a problem. It was suggested that CW write, on behalf of WCS, to MDC regarding the health and other issues relating to repairs to the fabric in a conservation area.
- iv. CB reminded members that Gert & Daisy would be performing at the Town Hall on 9th October at 7.30pm to raise funds for the Mayor's Charity. Tickets are available from Clare and from the Town Hall at £5 each.
- v. CW reported that the Open Garden event at Ginkgo House on 12th September had raised money for MacMillan Cancer Care and had also raised awareness of the Wells in Mosaic project, attracting (it is hoped) further financial support.
- vi. AIA passed on the message from Graham Livings that the Mendip Hospital Cemetery needs more trustees.
- vii. JJ has indicated that he has an interesting speaker to propose when talks are resumed.

11. Date of next meeting:

12th October at 2pm *venue tbc*

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the
Committee Meeting 12th October 2021

Present: Graham Barrow, Patrick Brown, Pam Crummay, Rosemary Evans, Adrian l'Anson, Doug Robinson, Ian Robinson, Jules Tresidder, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. Apologies for absence: Jon Jefferies

2. Minutes of the last meeting (14/09/21) Agreed
and **matters arising** - none not covered on the agenda

3. Preparation for the AGM 10th November:

- Notification (for members) and call for nominations: CW reported that she had emailed all members notifying them of the date and asking for nominations.
- Committee members standing for re-election:
 - CW welcomed Jules Tresidder and Pam Crummay who had expressed interest in joining the committee, which was very welcome. It was agreed that they would be co-opted in the first instance.
 - Andrew Fawcett, Clare Blackmore, Hilary Waters and John Rackham had already indicated that they would not stand for re-election; Graham has also taken that decision. CW said that she was very grateful for all their help and support in the past.
 - It is important that specific offices are filled in order to comply with Charity Commission rules.
- Annual report: CW will draft the report and asked for contributions to reach her by the end of the week.
- Examination of annual accounts & finance report:
 - IR reported that he had given the end of year accounts to Marilyn Cattell for examination. Once this has been done, the summary will be circulated to committee members and added to the Annual Report.
 - He stressed the importance of collecting Gift Aid from subscriptions which this year was £383.72.
 - There had been very little expenditure during the year, and the total from October renewal of subscriptions, although slightly lower than last year, was £1,353.12. Further renewal income is expected on 1st January and a few on other dates.
 - The Equity Fund has actually increased in value.
- Speaker to follow AGM:
JJ will ask the former director of the Fleet Air Arm Museum, who he said is a very good speaker.
Several other suggestions were made for future events:
 - Philippa Threlfall
 - David Thomas
 - Recent renovator of the West Front (ask Rob James, the Chancellor)
 - WCS plaques – the how, what and where?

4. Events

- Feedback from social evening (29/09/21): the evening was a success and CW had received some very positive comments.
- Next event: 8th December / seasonal social – ideas please to CW

- Visit to Wells in Mosaic studio 29th October at 4pm: several members have already signed up; let CW know as soon as possible please.

5. Plaques update: PW reported:

- The plaque planned for the “workhouse” (current health centre) can not go ahead until permission has been received from the building’s owner – the NHS.
- Similarly, the plaque on the bridge on the Strawberry Way near Dulcote (the Flying Figures sculpture) is dependent on establishing ownership (probably Somerset County Council) and obtaining permission.

CW added that the Plaques Trail leaflet had been well received and is being widely distributed via the tourist information office and the Meet & Greet / Ambassadors.

6. Membership update: CW gave an update on membership; (precise figures below¹)

7. Financial report – see 3. above

8. Trees & environment

- RE reported that she had been unable to meet with Bo Walch (tree officer MDC) but was concerned about some of the trees along the Moat Walk.
- AIA agreed to scrutinise planning applications regarding trees in the future.
- He reported that tree works undertaken at Strawberry Wood were under investigation and the enforcement officer at MDC was following up on the ‘bund’ along the East Mendip Way (Serious Staging).
- Unfortunately, one of the two sequoia trees on Place Fields is definitely dead. CW to look into its removal.

Trees for the Jubilee:

- CW had suggested that the Society might fund the planting of some trees in Wells. Sylvia Hanks has suggested that this might include the fruit trees that the volunteers looking after the Museum Garden had hoped to plant, but had no budget for. This was agreed in principle. CW to follow-up and the amount to be agreed.
- PW reported that the City Council would be coordinating some tree planting and was already working with St Cuthbert’s School.
- Some matched funding is available from MDC. Cllr Tom Ronan at MDC would be the officer to contact.
- The Portway Annexe garden (once it is purchased by WCC) might also benefit, as this is currently being looked after by a volunteer.
- JT suggested that WCS might fund the hedging needed by the Lawrence Centre; this was discussed and agreed in principle. JT & CW to progress.
- Wells in Bloom: since the pandemic, planting in the city has been carried out by WCC staff.

9. City Council projects

- Portway Annexe:

¹ 152 personal and 4 corporate members
81 renewals were made by standing order on 1st October (some are Joint Memberships) totalling £1,353.12;
22 renewals are due at later dates totalling £330;
9 new members this year.

- AIA reported for WCC that 70% of the responses to the consultation had been positive and he had written an 'update' for the next edition of Wells Voice.
 - The contract for the purchase has not yet been signed but once it is, essential work is expected to begin in January.
 - IR reported for the Community Group that the professional researchers, together with input from Strode College, would be publishing their research shortly; this would be sent to the WCC and then made public. Initial conclusions were 85% support for the purchase and there is interesting feedback on future uses of the building – including the potential for a café.
- Signage: AIA reported that there had been no progress due to lack of councillors' time.
 - Neighbourhood Plan: AIA reported that work to date had been sent to the consultant and the consultation process should begin in December.
 - Local by-elections: AIA reported that Denise Denis (Wells Independents) and Amanda Bailey (Lib Dem) were elected. The make-up of the City Council is now:
 - 6 Independents
 - 5 Lib Dems
 - 4 Conservative
 - 1 Green Party
 - Planning update: AIA reported:
 - Lidl was making a revised application allowing for a pedestrian crossing on Priory Road.
 - Sustrans is working with Lidl to provide a cycle path along the north side of the site; some trees will be felled; new ones will be planted.
 - The Strawberry Line (cycle path) has been successfully extended past Bigham's.

10. AOB

- i. The Old Deanery: there was concern that the building and garden are becoming derelict. It is not currently on the market and its future is unclear.
- ii. DR reported that he had updated the 'What's On' page of the website. CW & AIA to supply information for further updates. Amendments will also be made after the AGM.
- iii. The unsightly bollards in the Market Place were discussed (again). PW said it was in hand and an EU grant via MDC would fund 'heritage bollards' and movable planters.
- iv. The bus station was also due for improvements (re-surfacing next week) in partnership with *Bus Back Better* / SCC.
- v. GB said that there would be a Nativity Crib Festival at St Cuthbert's Church from 10-12 December.
- vi. JT recommended the Red Dress Project at the Connect Centre 12-3pm on 10-12 November. [The Red Dress \(reddressembroidery.com\)](http://reddressembroidery.com)
- vii. AIA said there would be a COP vigils on 30th October and 6th November.

11. Next meeting: 9th November 2pm (venue tbc)



ENDS 4.45pm

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee Meeting
held on 9th November 2021

Present: Pam Crummay, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson, Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

1. Apologies: Graham Barrow, Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Adrian l'Anson, Doug Robinson & Jules Tressider.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: (12th October) Accepted & **matters arising:** covered on the agenda

3. AGM:

- i. Minutes / matters arising: there was nothing of note
- ii. Elections: CW would ask the membership for further nominations and then for a proposal and seconder for those members prepared to stand again for election: Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Adrian l'Anson, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.
She thanked those who were standing down:- Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham and Hilary Waters ,and would re-iterate this at the AGM.
DR was happy to continue to manage the website as a co-opted member.
Jules Tresidder & Pam Crummay would be co-opted in the first instance with a view to being elected as full members at the next AGM.
An Honorary Secretary is still required to comply with Charity Commission rules.
- iii. Annual report: this had been circulated by email to all members and paper copies would be available at the meeting. Printing 25 copies by St Andrews Press had cost £13.

4. Treasurer's report / annual accounts

IR reported that Marilyn Cattell had examined the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2021 which were appended to the Annual Report. He commented that the dividend on the Harry Parkes fund had fallen but the assets had increased in value, which was in line with the general trend.

Expenditure for the year was low, due to pandemic restrictions, subscriptions were also down slightly but the financial situation was stable. The Gift Aid return for the year was £331.05.

5. Membership report

CW reported that there are 150 personal members and four corporate members.

6. Events

- i. Speaker for 10th November: JJ had arranged for Graham Mottram to speak about the history of Naval Aviation and the Fleet Air Arm Museum.
- ii. Without a Programme Secretary, future events will be arranged when and if possible. CW asked committee members to help with this.
Several suggestions were made for speakers / topics and possible visits which would be followed up:
 - Conservators /recent work on the West Front
 - A scene from the panto
 - David Thomas on Islam
 - Shepton Mallet Prison
 - The Chained Library
 - A High Tour of the Cathedral
 - The Old Convent in Chamberlain Street
 - Philippa Threlfall - ceramics
- iii. Next event – the Seasonal Celebration would be at 7pm on 8th December.

7. Plaques report

- i. JJ was still waiting for a response regarding permission for a plaque on the former workhouse / health centre.
- ii. PW said that all the preliminary work for the architectural plaque for the corner of Sadler St / Chamberlain St had been done. PW to pass 'paper work' to JJ.
- iii. JJ said he did not consider that the proposal for a plaque on the bridge on the footpath/cycle way at Dulcote met the criteria which had been agreed (attached). CW suggested that this should be an agenda item for a decision to be made at the next meeting. Committee members agreed to familiarise themselves with the proposal and the criteria by then.

8. Trees / environment

- i. Trees at Museum: the offer of a donation was very well received, and the total agreed at £192 for the trees, stakes etc plus delivery, which was expected to be c£250.
- ii. Hedge at Lawrence Centre: Sleepers, to edge the bed, and hedging is estimated to cost c£500, which was agreed.

9. City Council projects update:

- i. Portway Annexe: PW reported that the Council should take ownership of the building within the next two weeks. There were still ongoing discussions regarding uses / users, facilities (eg: café), vehicular access / parking facilities.
- ii. Signage: PW reported that there had been no progress.
- iii. Neighbourhood Plan: see attached report from AIA.
- iv. Bishops Barn / Recreation Ground: PW reported that this was "moving forward".

10. Planning report

See attached reports from AIA re The Old Deanery, planning update for the website and Neighbourhood Plan (as above).

11. AOB

PW said that he had tickets for the Gala Night on 10th December at the Film Centre showing 'West Side Story', in aid of the Mayor's charity.

12. Date of next meeting: 7th December 2pm - venue to be confirmed

Wells Civic Society
Committee Meeting 30th November 2021
Minutes

Present: Pam Crummay, Rosemary Evans, Jon Jefferies, Jules Tresidder, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. Apologies: Patrick Brown, Adrian l'Anson, Doug Robinson and Ian Robinson.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (9th November) & matters arising: None

3. AGM report back and matters arising

- i. Attendance: 25 members
- ii. Minutes: no urgent matters arising.
- iii. Committee / officers: members elected at the AGM were: Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Adrian l'Anson, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson, Philip Welch and Chris Winter. However, for personal reasons, Rosemary has now tendered her resignation. CW thanked her for all her help and support, especially for hosting committee meetings. CW was concerned that Charity Commission regulations required named officers in certain roles, including an Honorary Secretary. With assurances that it would not be a solo task, JT volunteered to take this on. CW was very grateful, although she said she would need to check the constitution as JT is a co-opted member of the committee. The roles of Membership Secretary and Programme Secretary are still vacant.
- iv. Doug Robinson & Pam Crummay are also co-opted members.

4. Treasurer's report: IR sent his apologies but there was nothing to report.

5. Membership report (CW) 152 personal members and four corporate members

6. Events

- i. 1st December - Seasonal Celebration & speaker: CW had arranged for Philippa Threlfall to speak, as well as seasonal refreshments to be served. She asked those who were able to, to arrive at 6.30 to help to set up the room.
- ii. Future events: several possible speakers and visits were discussed at the last meeting and CW asked that committee members helped to arrange these for the 2022 season.¹ In addition, she suggested inviting David Morgan-Hewitt, chair of the Friends of the Organ Appeal.
- iii. PW suggested that information about forthcoming events could be circulated via the WCN newsletters.

7. Plaques update

- i. JJ had had a response from the person responsible for the Health Centre building, and was hopeful that this would now be progressed.

1

- Conservators /recent work on the West Front
- ~~A scene from the panto~~
- David Thomas on Islam
- Shepton Mallet Prison
- The Chained Library
- A High Tour of the Cathedral
- The Old Convent in Chamberlain Street

- ii. Using the agreed criteria, JJ did not think that a plaque was merited on the old railway bridge over the Strawberry Way path at Dulcote. But as opinions differed CW asked for a vote which was 4 for and 2 against, but as only six members were present, she said she would canvas the opinions of absentees.²

8. Trees / environment

- i. RE reported that the dead tree along the Moat Walk is expected to be removed.
- ii. Trees at Museum: CW had been in discussions with the project team and payment of the £250 already agreed would be made.
- iii. Hedge at Lawrence Centre: similarly, the £500 agreed would be paid, with publicity for this and ii. in local media.
- iv. Other projects involving tree planting will be considered as part of Jubilee celebration in 2022.
- v. RE also suggested that more public seating was needed, especially on the west side of the City and this might be another project which could also be done in partnership with others. CW agreed to look into this.

9. City Council projects update:

- i. Portway Annexe: PW reported that the contract had been signed for the purchase. He said that approximately £30,000 needs to be spent on essential works before the opening in March.
- ii. Signage: no progress
- iii. Neighbourhood Plan: AIA not available to report.
- iv. Recreation Ground / Barn: PW reported that the City Council was waiting for a response from MDC; there is on going discussion about the 7 parking spaces allocated to the Barn.

10. Planning report:

PW said that there were few planning applications currently and none of major significance.

11. Discussion paper:

JT reiterated the points made in her paper (previously circulated).

It was agreed that:

- At the evening talks, personal meeting and greeting members and visitors and saying 'goodnight' and checking everyone felt safe going home might encourage attendance, especially on winter evenings. CW asked committee members to make themselves available for this, and if necessary to either walk or drive members home.
- Members of the Wells Community Network could be invited to accompany members, which would encourage attendance (as above) and introduce the talks to a new audience. JT agreed to send some text to PW for the next WCN newsletter.
- When publicising the talks, a short biography of the speaker might also encourage attendance. CW suggested that whoever arranges the talk should ask for this, together with a photo or image from the presentation.
- JT would investigate opportunities to work with schools to add value to our website (eg: videos / streaming).

12. AOB

² With all responses this was 5:5, so currently still unresolved.

- JJ reported that he was ensuring that the plaque trail leaflets were always available at several locations. However, the leaflet racks at the cathedral and palace are a 'paid for' facility, which it might be worth enquiring about using.
- There are quite a number of 'trails' around the City now.
- The drawbridge at the palace was last raised in 1831 ?; is it worth planning for a bi-centenary event?
- PW asked for ideas for celebrating the Jubilee next year (the Queen's not the WCS's)
- JT reported that it is the 10th anniversary of the Food Festival next year and suggested that we might like to engage with this by sponsoring one of the awards.
- PC reported that the new chief executive was due to start at the palace on 1st January.
- JT suggested that many members would appreciate communications other than by email. CW reminded everyone that it had taken some time to collect email addresses from (most) members and whilst it was appreciated that not everyone responded to email, the cost of postage was prohibitive and there were no longer enough committee members able to hand deliver notices, as had once been the practice. JT said she would research options.

13. Date of next meeting: 11th January 2022; venue *tba*

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
7th January 2020

Present – Graham Barrow, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian I’Anson, John Rackham, Doug Robinson, Ian Robinson, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies** - Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Jon Jefferies and Hilary Walters.
2. **Approve Minutes of the last meeting** held on 10th December - agreed.
3. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda** - none.

4. Reports:

i. Plaques Report

- City Arms: **PW** is waiting for the ownership certificate and the Listed Building planning application, in order to progress.
- Priest Row – location of knitting/hosiers: Sarah Villiers is keen to progress this; which AF will discuss with her.
- **PW** will present an indoor plaque to City News, to which committee members were invited.

JJ’s initial photo survey of plaques and information signs across the city centre showed that many were redundant or in a very bad state and not a credit to the city. Some had been installed by the Civic Society, others by the City Council and others were unknown. CB & HW had cleaned the Blue Plaques and the Architectural Plaques during last summer.

DR, JJ & CW agreed to carry out further research in order to decide what might be done to improve the situation and whether more of the signs could eventually be added to the WCS website.

PW also agreed to mention the issue to the Open Spaces Committee of the WCC.

DR now has a *QR code* which can be added to plaques and other information sources.

ii. Trees

RE reported that the yew tree at 32 College Road was to be felled but saw no reason to object.

iii. Treasurer’s report

IR reported that:

- Up to £90 could still be collected in subscriptions; however, even with this, total subs would be approx. £350 less than 2018/19.
- Having contacted members to complete Gift Aid forms, the return from HMRC should be up on last year to the £350-400 range.
- The value of the Harry Parkes bequest fund has remained fairly steady thus far.

NB: AIA to ensure Barbara Duncan of Southover receives a Newsletter, which she says she has not for some time.

iv. Tourism update

- **CW** reported that the Tourist Information Centre will be relocated at the end of January¹. Grant funding and in-kind support from the City Council, Bishops Palace, the Museum and the Cathedral has contributed to the setting up of a shop+office in the East Room in the Town Hall. Siobhan Goodwin will extend her role at the Palace to manage the volunteers, some of whom will migrate from the Museum.
- A recent **Which?** report named Wells as the best small city for short breaks, which has been reported in local media including BBC Somerset. It was suggested that this accolade might be added to future information leaflets.

¹ This has been changed to 29th February

v. Planning Report

AI'A reported that:

- there had been some improvement to the application for 100+ houses planned for Elm Close (including a second access). He suggested that a traffic survey was necessary.
- Over 100 objections have already been made to the 148 houses planned for Wookey Hole Road; it was agreed that he should send an objection on behalf of the Civic Society. (see planning application ²)
- He would be seeing Simon Smart, planning enforcement officer MDC, at a meeting of MCAP on 8th January for further discussions, including the planting of trees on new developments.
- The Local Plan Inspector had noted that new housing numbers could be increased for Mendip, which makes Wells more vulnerable to development.

There was generally discussion and it was suggested that the CS should express concern via the local media about the number of houses, the impact on the infrastructure, and the type of houses being built, which it was agreed were not appropriate to local needs.

AI'A cited the St Ives Neighbourhood Plan which had addressed a particular local issue - ie: banning the sale of new houses as second homes. However, many of the proposed developments were outside the City boundary (in St Cuthbert's Out) and therefore not within the remit of the Wells Neighbourhood Plan, although this would help to address other planning issues.

It was also suggested that there have been more houses built in the area in the last few years than in the last 60 years.

vi. Chair's report:

- **CW** expressed her disappointment that **AF** had felt it necessary to resign as a City Councillor. **AF** said that he was frustrated that the Council had little or no power to make things happen.
- **Photographic exhibition at the Museum** – **CW** to progress support for this with **CB** when she is fully recovered.
- **Recruitment of new members**: it was agreed that the booklet and leaflet could be more widely distributed to attract members – eg: in a 'Welcome Pack' for newcomers to Wells distributed via estate agents and as an insert in Wells Voice³. **CW & IR** agreed to look at costs and other implications.
- **Corporate Members**: currently Harris & Harris (£6 pa), The Palace Trust (£20 pa) and Chubb Bulleid (£20 pa); there was interest in the past from several other businesses and scope for recruitment if there were benefits which could be demonstrated. **CW** also to discuss with Robert Powell, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. ⁴
- **CW** agreed to speak to Rosie Martin about any possibility of working with the Palace during the 2020 800-year celebration.

5. Tomorrow's Speaker:

Jerry Sampson will talk about 'Building a Cathedral'; as the event will be in the 1st floor room, members were asked to help directing attendees. **AF** to buy and serve refreshments as usual.

6. Any other Business

- **RE** suggested the Fire Brigade could give a talk as part of next year's programme. Few people realise that they can have a free consultation about fire safety in the home and devices to aid older householders.
- Ann Cook was also suggested as a speaker about photography, and the Pensioner of Pilton / Granny at Glastonbury (?)

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday 11th February at 2.00pm at Roger's – 34 Milton Lane

² 2019/2883/OTS | Application for Outline Planning for residential development of up to 148 dwellings including means of access with all other matters reserved. | Land At 353582 146889 Wookey Hole Road Wells Somerset

³ Wells Voice inserts: 6,300 for £279.72 (incl vat)

⁴ CW to attend WCCT meeting on 3rd February

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
11th February 2020

Present – Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Jon Jeffries, Ian Robinson, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies** – Adrian l’Anson, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Doug Robinson & Hilary Walters.
2. **Approve Minutes of the last meeting** held January 9th – minutes agreed following amendments to item 4.iii.:
 - *Up to £90 could still be collected in subscriptions; however, even with this, total subs would be approx. £350 less than 2018/19.*
 - *Having contacted members to complete Gift Aid forms, the return from HMRC should be up on last year to the £350-400 range.*

Items 4.v. & vi ‘typos’ corrected

The Chair will sign a copy and pass this to the Secretary.

3. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda** - none.

4. **Reports:**

- i. **Plaques:**

- City Arms: **PW** has received ownership details from Bruce and the Listed Building planning application can be progressed. Cost: installation £75.
- Priest Row – location of knitting/hosiers: Sarah Villiers is keen to progress with this. Cost: £350 & installation £75.
- **JJ** suggested and committee agreed we should consider putting a plaque on the old Workhouse – now the Health Centre.
- Other suggestions were Vicars Close & the Cathedral Clock, but as these are Cathedral buildings it might not be acceptable.
- **PW** reported that the cost of the architectural plaque to be installed on the junction of Chamberlain Street and Sadler Street would be £640 plus installation £75.
- The offer of an indoor plaque for the Dry Cleaner at Queen Street has been declined.

- ii. **Trees:** No report but **CW** suggested that the Civic Society might like to be involved in the City Council tree planting scheme. Members could be asked to identify ground /spaces where trees could be planted within the city.

- iii **Treasurer’s report**

IR reported that:

- The account is in surplus with costings for plaques, rent, printing taken into account.
- HMRC returns from Gift Aid should be about £320, compared with £181 in the last financial year.

CW reported that the problems with changing signatories on the bank account are still ongoing but NatWest has given the society £150 by way of compensation for one of their errors. She will contact the bank again to reach a resolution.

PB was keen to increase Corporate Membership. **CW** suggested that, rather than asking businesses to become members, they might respond better to a more direct approach for contributions (in kind or financial) to projects which might interest them, therefore offering them a local profile or other incentives. **CB**, **IR** & **CW** agreed to take this forward.

- iv. **Tourism update**

CW reported that the new Tourist Information Centre will be opened in the East Room at the Town Hall on February 29th. This will be run by a combination of staff seconded from the Bishops Palace and volunteers, including some already volunteering at the Museum, the current site of the TIC.

- v. **Planning Report: A'IA** will report at members' meeting on 12/02/20.
- vi. **Museum Photographic Exhibition: CB** reported that this has been delayed until the end of April. It was agreed that a financial contribution should be made to support this project, which will be a combination of Museum archive and Mendip Hospital Cemetery records.
- vii. **Chair's Report**
 - **CW** reported that *Meet and Greet* at the coach park was ongoing and very successful and that Wells has been nominated for a national Coach Award again.
 - **CW** gave dates and details for a visit to the Alfred Gillet Trust at Street and would invite members at Wednesday's evening meeting to sign up for this on either 21st or 29th April.
 - The cost of inserts in the Wells Voice, delivered to 6,300 households, would be £279.72. It was agreed that this would be a good way to publicise the society and to recruit new members, especially on some of the new housing estates. It was also agreed that the current leaflet might be changed before re-printing. **JJ** agreed to help **CW** to do this.
 - **JJ's** signage report was very thorough and it was decided that the Civic Society should make a presentation to the Council's Open Spaces Committee to try and get a uniformity on signage within the city.
 - **Summer Social:** after considering a number of possible alternatives, it was agreed to have the museum as the location for the June evening meeting.
 - **2020/21 Programme:**
 - Gert and Daisy (aka HW & CB) offered to continue with their adventures for the December meeting, possibly in conjunction with Temperley's Apple Brandy.
 - **Other suggestions** included: update on Wells in Mosaic, The Fire Service, Ann Cook (photography), Bo Walsh (MDC trees), Paul Dean (truffles), Sustainable Wells / Climate Action Network, Yeo Valley, head teacher at Wells Blue School (**PW** to ask him), Abbeyfield, Bishops Palace at 800, Fleet Air Museum, Bristol Airport.

5. AOB.

- **CW** shared the information on International Women's Day from 12 – 4pm at the Town Hall on March 8th. The focus will be on mental health and wellbeing and the positive effect of crafts and other activities, with the ever-popular Chaps' Café.
- **PW** said he would be chairing a meeting about the implications of 5G on March 28th 10am to 12pm in the Town Hall.
- **PB** has donated 1150 slides (1966-2016) to the Museum in the hope that they can be digitised and kept for posterity.

6. Next Meeting:

Tuesday ~~March 10~~ **February March at 2.00pm.** at Rosemary's 102 St Thomas Street. (Apol: PB & GB)

Wells Civic Society

Minutes of the meeting held via 'zoom' on

9th June 2020

Present: Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Jon Jefferies, Adrian I'Anson, John Rackham, Doug Robinson, Ian Robinson, Hilary Walters, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies:** Patrick Brown and Roger Cookman

2. **Minutes of last meeting held on 11th February:** Agreed

3. **Matters arising: None**

- i. The March 10th meeting was cancelled as apologies were received from 9 members of the committee and there were no urgent issues to discuss at the time. The evening meeting on March 11th went ahead, with Russell Lillford, from the Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust.
- ii. April & May meetings were cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic and national lockdown.

4. **CV19 update**

Wells Coronavirus Network: PW reported that over 300 volunteers have been helping and supporting the community in a number of ways, including supplying donated laptops for care homes, so that residents can keep in touch with loved ones.

5. **Finance update**

- i. **Gift aid:** IR reported that he expected to receive £380 from HMRC.
- ii. **NW signatures** / compensation & CAF signatures: £400 has been paid by NW as compensation for incompetence. The issues should be completely resolved in the near future.
- iii. **Museum donation:** It was agreed that a £500 donation should be made to help to support the Museum, as its role is very important to the city and to the society.

AF, chair of the Board of Trustees, expressed his gratitude for this generous contribution; He and CB (also a Trustee) suggested that the society should receive credit publicly for this on the Museum website. He was also pleased to report that over £7000 had been raised by crowdfunding which would help ongoing costs during lockdown.

It was suggested that the Connect Centre was also worthy of our support but CW reported that they had recently received a £40,000 grant for their commendable support for the homeless.

6. **Planning:**

AIA had circulated a comprehensive report prior to the meeting; several points were discussed:

- i. **Neighbourhood Plan:** the steering group is moving the Plan forward and the grant applications have been agreed.¹

¹ £7,350 subsequently received, together with £1000 for additional Covid 19 related costs; further grant applications will cover a Design Guide and Housing Needs Survey to augment the Plan.

- ii. **Housing development:** concerns were expressed about the extent of housing development in and around the city and the lack of (or felling of existing) trees. Some issues can be addressed within the Neighbourhood Plan, others are a matter of national policy (eg: the number of houses to be built in the MDC area). Members of the public are encouraged to comment on planning applications, although it is not always appropriate for the Society to respond, unless it can be certain that it is expressing an opinion that is representative of its membership.

It was agreed that the Society would not comment on the application for a house to be built in the garden of 14 Chamberlain Street as the owner is well known to many members.

- iii. **Old Deanery update:** the building is on the market again; the local consortium, which includes The Trevor Osborne Property Group, has expressed an interest.

- 7. **Tourism** }
- 8. **PR** } see Chair's report; no further discussion.
- 9. **Wells in Mosaic** }

10. Leaflet – design / print / circulation:

JJ reported that he had contacted St Andrews Press who would resume design work on the leaflet as soon as possible bearing in mind the current circumstances.

In the meantime, DR & CW are hoping to be able to offer more to members via the website to maintain (and increase) interest in the Society's work. This would be highlighted in the leaflet in order to attract a wider audience – and hopefully more members.

11. Next year's programme

- i. **Summer Social scheduled for 9th September:** it was agreed that it was unlikely that restrictions would allow this to take place. As soon as it was possible CW would explore the possibilities of resuming members' meetings.
- ii. **AGM scheduled for 11th November:** in the event of members' still being unable to meet arrangement would be made for a virtual (zoom) meeting to be set up.

12. e-newsletter to members

CW planned to email all members as soon as the updates to the website had been made. CB offered to help to contact members who did use email.

13. AOB

- i. Sarah Villier's latest book is available to members.
- ii. The Photographic exhibition at Museum is postponed until April 2021; a donation will be considered at the appropriate time.

14. Date of next meeting: tba

Wells Civic Society

Minutes

2pm Tuesday 8th September 2020

Zoom Meeting

Present: Clare Blackmore, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies:** Graham Barrow, John Rackham, Doug Robinson, Hilary Waters & Philip Welch
2. **Minutes of the last meeting (9th June) – Agreed**
3. **Matters arising (not on the agenda) - none**

4. **Finance (IR)**

The current account balance stands at £2,260, with reserves of £9,000, of which £7,000 is ear-marked for Wells in Mosaic. As the end of financial year is 30th September, Marilyn Cantell will be asked if she is able to inspect the accounts again this year, for presentation to the AGM in November.

Due to the enforced inactivity of the society, concern was expressed about whether fewer members might renew on 1st October. CW hoped that as the programme had been delivered from October until March, and efforts had been made to keep members informed (updated website, e-newsletter, articles in the local papers) support could be maintained. IR said that a large proportion of subscriptions were paid by standing order so he was hopeful that these would still be paid. This would only be evident after 1st October, although some subs are still paid on 1st January. CB, CW & IR would meet in early October to check and if necessary, send invitations to renew.

A strategy to increase corporate membership will be discussed when it is possible to hold an event for local businesses.

5. **Planning (Al'A)**

- i. **Housing developments:** 3 applications are ongoing – 90 dwellings west of the Wookey Hole Road developments; 68 north of Elm Close & retirement accommodation (by Churchill Homes) on the site of the Police Station on Glastonbury Road.
- ii. **The Old Deanery:** the bid by a local group is being considered. The group has now widened its appeal but needs to raise £250,000 to add to the £1m offered by Trevor Osborn* plus a further £150,000 for the lease of the parts of the building for community use. The Diocese is enthusiastic about the offer but has to meet its financial obligations. RE suggested that there could be any number of people who would be prepared to make a range of contributions; AIA said that this would probably be addressed via Crowdfunding. There are also royal and other well-connected potential supporters in mind.
- iii. **The Bishop's Palace:** The Trustees are hoping to buy the freehold from the Church Commission. No more details available yet.
- iv. **The Market Place:** AIA was pleased with the open-air jazz event held on Bank Holiday Monday and with progress towards further devolution of powers to the City Council. He hoped that the City Council could ensure that the area would remain car-free and the unsightly blocks, currently separating vehicles and pedestrians, might be replaced with more permanent and more attractive planters or seating.

6. Neighbourhood Plan (AI'A / CW)

Simon Nash (former CEO of the Somerset Wildlife Trust) and a number of consultants from AECOM are carrying out work (with funding from *Locality*) which will support the Plan in terms of evidence and data. A biodiversity report, design guidance for the three allocated sites, a Housing Needs Assessment and a masterplan are expected to be completed by the end of the month.

As the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan is ready to go to referendum, and addresses similar issues to Wells, it is planned to visit the town and to talk to those who have worked on the Plan.

Having the professional support is helping the Plan to progress well.

7. Plaques (PW) nothing to report

8. Website / e-newsletter (CW / DR)

The website has been substantially updated, and an e-newsletter was circulated to all members with email addresses (& some delivered by hand) to direct them to the website for stories and updates.

9. Publicity (CW / CB / JJ)

Several articles about recent activities have been written for the local press to keep the Society in the public domain.

It was agreed that the planned leaflet (to be delivered to all City residents) should be put on 'hold' until such time as future events and activities are more certain and there is an 'offer' to encourage new members.

10. The Museum (AF / CB)

Saturdays have been very busy and there are now plans to open alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays as well. Free entry, but asking for donations, has proved very successful.

Response to the photographic exhibition has been very positive.

The Westbury Ingot (a Roman lead ingot) has been obtained on extended loan and will be on display soon.

AF reiterated his thanks for the donation which helped to support the reopening.

The **Tourist Information Centre** is currently staffed by Town Hall staff and is being well publicised through the tourism group/Andy Webb.

11. WCN (PW) nothing to report

12. Wells in Mosaic (CW)

Ruth is making very good progress (due to lockdown) although completion of the project is still a couple of years away. It was agreed that CW contact her regarding the next tranche of sponsorship to contribute to the cost of materials.

13. Social event - to be discussed at the next meeting.

14. AOB - none

15. Dates of next meeting: 13th October

(tbc -10th November (AGM) & 8th December).

*see his projects at <http://www.topgroup.co.uk/portfolio/>

Wells Civic Society
Minutes
2pm Tuesday 13th October 2020

Zoom Meeting

Present: Clare Blackmore, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, Jon Jefferies, Ian Robinson, Hilary Waters, Philip Welch & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies:** Graham Barrow, John Rackham, Doug Robinson

2. **Minutes of the last meeting** (9th September) – Agreed

3. **Matters arising** (not on the agenda) - none

4. **Finance** (IR)

The finances are fine and there is money in the bank. The problems with access to online banking are resolved. Predictably our expenses are down and IR said he would look at the investment of the Harry Parkes bequest and its performance. Membership subscriptions are due 1st October.

It was agreed that a further £2,100 would be donated to Wells in Mosaic in order that work can continue during the Covid 19 restrictions when fundraising events have stopped.

Marilyn Cattell has examined and signed off the accounts in preparation for the AGM and it was agreed to give her a box of chocolates by way of thanks.

5. **Planning** (Al'A had circulated a detailed report)

- i. **Housing developments:** The Gladman application (Wookey Hole Road) has been refused.
- ii. **Cherry Orchard, Ash Lane:** This application has been refused due to access problems and complaints about the property blocking views. It was decided to decline to comment on the application as it is not within our remit.
- iii. **The Old Deanery:** a bid has been made by a private buyer for £1.6m with an idea for domestic and community use, however, a community group is still considering a bid.
- iv. **Portway Annexe:** This is being sold by Somerset County Council; an application for it to be registered as a community asset has been turned down by MDC, but has indicated that an improved application might be accepted. The City Council and community groups have expressed interest in buying the building for use as a community hub.

6. **Neighbourhood Plan** (Al'A / CW)

This is being progressed with support from consultants who have produced a number of reports – a Housing Needs Assessment, Design Guide and a Masterplan, as evidence for policies and projects.

7. **Plaques** (PW)

Philip asked if responsibility for the plaques could, for his 18 months as Mayor, be picked up by someone else.

Discussions are ongoing with Sustrans and the sculptor regarding a plaque for the Flying Figures under the bridge on the cycle path between Dulcote and Morrisons.

8. Museum (CB/AF)

This is now only open on a Saturday due to problems with recruiting volunteers in the current Covid situation.

9. Wells in Mosaic (CW)

Ruth is making very good progress (due to lockdown) although completion of the project is still a couple of years away. Several 'windows' have been completed and regular press releases in local media are keeping the public up to date. Donations and sponsorship is coming in slowly.

10. Two major retailers are closing - Peacocks & The Edinburgh Wool Shop - which means the Post Office will not be relocated to the High Street. PW reported that the owners of the pet shop in Queen Street have expressed an interest.

11. AGM 11th November

This will have to be done on Zoom; CW asked for contributions to the Annual Report which she would circulate to members with details about the meeting. She also asked committee members to let her know whether they would be willing to stand for election in the coming year.

12. AOB

AF asked whether an event for members could be considered? It was agreed, after discussion, that in the current conditions, this was not feasible. CW and DR would continue to keep in touch with members through the website and e-newsletters.

13. Dates of next meetings:

Committee – 10th November 2pm

AGM - 11th November 7.30pm

- both by zoom

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at
2pm on Tuesday 10th November 2020

Zoom Meeting

Present: Clare Blackmore, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, Ian Robinson, Doug Robinson, Hilary Waters, Philip Welch & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies:** Patrick Brown and Jon Jefferies.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** (13th October) – Agreed
3. **Matters arising:**

Item 4. CW to purchase chocolates for Marilyn Cattell when lockdown permits.

4. **Finance** (IR)

The majority of the standing orders have been paid for the October group and the account is healthy. A second batch are due to come in in January.

Renewals have been sent to cheque paying members and members of the committee were asked to set up Standing Orders. Forms can be downloaded from the website -

<https://www.wellscivicsociety.org.uk/about-us>

5. **AGM: (CW)**

The membership has been informed that the AGM will be held by *zoom* on Wednesday 11th November. Several have confirmed their attendance and, with the committee members, this will make up a quorum. The particular national circumstances of lockdown are fulfilled as the society has made every effort to show due diligence, and has facilitated the meeting to the best of its ability.

Jon Jefferies has agreed to stand for election to the committee (he is currently co-opted) and this was welcomed by the committee.

6. **Planning (Al'A)**

- i. **The Old Deanery:** a bid has been made by a private buyer for £1.6m with a proposal for domestic and community use but the buyer is still unidentified. Al'A asked if anyone would be interested in joining the Old Deanery Group (which is also planning to bid) as ideally it should be more diverse and representative.
- ii. **The Portway Annexe:** This is being sold by Somerset County Council; an application for it to be registered as an "Asset of Community Value" was turned down by MDC, but it was indicated that an improved application might be accepted. Al'A asked that the Civic Society and individual members write to MDC in support of the case.
The City Council, together with community groups, has expressed interest in buying the building for use as a community hub.
PW explained the cost of purchasing (£600,000+) and maintaining the building. There are many groups interested in using it but it would have to make an annual income of about £60,000 to cover running costs.
The City Council is looking at all avenues to solve the problem, including selling other assets, but it will not be easy.

7. **Neighbourhood Plan** (Al'A)

Adrian thanked CW for all her work on the Neighbourhood Plan after her recent resignation from the steering group and paid tribute to the fact that she had worked hard to keep it going.

He said that the Plan would continue with a focus on housing needs. The consultants, AECOM, have already produced a number of reports which will provide vital evidence for

the Plan. He said that anyone with appropriate skills and knowledge (especially of planning) would be very welcome to join the steering group.

8. Plaques (PW)

There had been no further action on the plaques but Rosemary had offered her help and more support would be welcome.

9. Museum (CB/AF)

The museum is closed again, probably until after Christmas, in line with current Covid guidance.

10. Wells in Mosaic (CW)

Ruth is making very good progress (due to lockdown) although completion of the project is still a couple of years away. Several 'windows' have been completed and regular press releases in local media are keeping the public up to date. Donations and sponsorship is coming in slowly.

11. AOB

- i. AF reiterated that the Civic Society will be very welcome to use the lecture room at the Museum when circumstances allow.
- ii. PW had been speaking to Gert & Daisy regarding events in the future.
- iii. CW suggested that after the AGM, activities should be put on hold for the next few months in view of the national situation. The time could be spent in considering how best to 'relaunch' in the spring, with a view to broadening the appeal of the society, recruiting more members and involving more people.
- iv. CW thanked Clare for all her help and support but said that more assistance was needed from other committee members. She added that the appointment of the Officers is a legal requirement of the Charity Commission and comes with obligations; their roles are also critical if the society is to continue and requires some commitment.
- v. It was agreed that a social *zoom* meeting might be held in December; details to be discussed by email.

12. Dates of next meetings: tba

2019 MINUTES

Wells Civic Society

Committee Minutes on 8th January 2019

Present - Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham, Doug Robinson, Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

1. Apologies - Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Adrian l'Anson, Hilary Waters.
2. The Minutes of the last meeting 11th December 2018 were agreed.
3. Matter Arising - CW said items from the previous minutes needed to be addressed, ie: liaising with DR about the website and the correct e-mail addresses.
4. Chair's Report - nothing to report.
5. Membership Report - It was noted that income received from subscriptions so far this year had increased, (approx. £1600.00) in part due to an increase in subscriptions.
6. Treasurers Report - Our Investments are currently falling as are most others. Over the last 6 months we have probably lost close to 15%, in the current climate this is to be expected. We continue to receive approximately 2.6% investment return.
RA was thanked for his details and was asked to keep the committee up to date with any further movements up or down.
RA suggested that it might be possible for more members to sign up for Gift Aid as only 57 were on the last return.
7. Plaques - PW is still waiting to complete the architectural plaque for the Liberty. He will approach the D'Ovidio family to fix the plaque.

"Don the Barber" is the next candidate for an indoor plaque as he has been at his present location 43 years. Peter Douglas in Broad street may also be considered for an indoor plaque.
8. Trees - RE is looking into the application for conifers at No.6 Portway to be removed.
9. Planning - there appears to be some positive movement on three properties in the High Street which is good news. The Kings Head has been let or purchased by another brewery, whilst the former "Factory Shop" and "What!" sites are likely to have new tenants - Loafers and Peacocks possibly.
10. AGM follow-up - CW thanked all the committee members who had helped in the production of the AGM report. Discussion centred round changing the date of the AGM to November in 2019 as preparations over the Christmas / New Year period are difficult. RA was concerned that it may be difficult to prepare the end of year (September) accounts and have them inspected by Marilyn Cattel; she would be contacted before the change was suggested to members.
11. Plans for 2019
 - It was agreed that Art 360 should be run again but details of this, and other events, to be discussed at next meeting when CB and HW are present.
 - We are attending "Wake up Wells", stand in the Cathedral on 26th January. CW also doing a talk on "What is Civic Society and are you part of it". Stand to be manned from 10.00am till 4.00pm. CW needs maximum support and asked committee members if they could help for an hour or more during the day.
 - Will devote more time to 2019 plans at the next meeting.
12. Any other Business:
 - There will be a public meeting on 9th February at Seager Hall to discuss parking and pedestrian priority in the city centre. Soup will be served. CW offered to try to find an outside speaker to put the points objectively.

- **AF** reported that the WW1 exhibition “Wells Remembers” is still going strongly at the Museum, and suggested we all look at their website to see a copy of a BBC commentary. There is also a book available about each of the men on the Wells War Memorial.
- **RE** will arrange to buy and give flowers to Virginia with the Society’s best wishes for a speedy recovery.
- There is a great deal of interest in the future of the Old Deanery, including from the Tate.
- **GB** asked about empty shops and can we do anything about arranging displays in their windows. **CW** suggested that he approach Mendip DC to ask exactly what is involved and report back.
- It was also suggested that Nick Carter who works for Somerset Waste Partnership might be asked if he would give a talk to the Society on the general theme of waste, recycling and what we should be doing to help. **PW** will find his e-mail for **CW**.

13. Next Meeting – 12th February 2019 - at 23 New Street

**Wells Civic Society
Minutes of Committee Meeting**

12th February 2019

Present: Graham Barrow, Roger Cookman, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, Doug Robinson, Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies:** Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, John Rackham and Hilary Waters
2. **Approve Minutes of last Meeting:** agreed as true record.

AGM draft minutes: GB raised a 'point of order' with regard to item 8. After the proposal and seconding of a motion there should be a vote which is recorded, not "all agreed". NB for next time.

3. Matters Arising not on the Agenda

6. in order to collect a greater proportion of members' Gift Aid we need to contact all those who have not yet signed up. There needs to be an exercise to compare the membership list and Gift Aid list, then members can be contacted verbally (at the evening meeting), by email or by letter.

ACTION: RA / CB /CW

12. RE was thanked for arranging a card and flowers for Virginia.

4. Officers' Reports

a. Chair's report

- **Wake Up Wells:** it was good to be part of this event; we collected a few comments and several people took away membership forms and programmes. We might think about getting a pop-up banner for these sorts of occasions to give us a better 'presence'; and perhaps a leaflet?

After discussion it was agreed that both of these should be explored in terms of cost and what the leaflet would contain (see 6.d. below)

ACTION: CW

- **Visit by Coach** – which we help to fund, has been shortlisted for the British Coach Tourism Awards 2019 in the Coach Friendly Destination category. CW agreed to forward the invitation to the awards lunch to PW for use in publicity.
- **Defib training** – quite a few people expressed an interest so Richard Leworthy offered to give a training session prior to the March meeting. However, AF advised that as the training actually takes 2 hours this has had to be re-scheduled, which Richard will announce at the Wednesday evening meeting.
- **Civic Voice:** CW said that it had been a difficult decision but she had resigned from the board of trustees.
As members of Civic Voice, WCS could participate in activities and events, and CW would continue to circulate the regular newsletters.
Renewal of membership would be discussed when it was due in October.
CW was still interested in bringing civic societies in the region together, which could be developed as an additional activity.
- **Next AGM:** Marilyn Cattell has said that she is prepared to inspect the accounts for us in time for a November AGM. It was agreed that CW would propose this to the members tomorrow evening.

ACTION: CW

- **WOW** (Women of Wells) is organising their 5th International Women's Day celebration – on Saturday 9th March at the Portway Building. All welcome.

b. Treasurer's report

RA had circulated an up-to-date spreadsheet; his comments on Gift Aid funds received and a slight rise in the value of the investment were noted.

c. Membership

Income from subscriptions has risen, due in part to the increase in fees; it would be useful to interrogate the figures to determine the number of members lost – which could be due to this or the GDPR exercise.

ACTION RA/CB

d. Plaques

PW reported that he is still waiting to hear from the manufacturer of the architectural plaque for the Liberty.

He agreed to contact Robert Powell regarding the reinstatement of the plaques on his shop.

ACTION: PW

e. Trees: nothing to report

f. Planning

AIA reported that:

- Reports that the Kings Head might be redeveloped in the near future were 'optimistic'.
- Loafers takeover of the former Factory Shop is not yet confirmed.
- The former *What!* shop will reopen as a combined enterprise – Peacocks, Edinburgh Wool Shop and Ponden Homes, which all have the same owner.
- Michael Phelps will be applying for planning permission for car parking on Palace Field more than the current 28 days per year. This was welcomed by those attending the public meeting on 9th Feb., although it will be interesting to see whether this support will continue when the application is made.
- Permission for the shepherd's hut adjacent to the moat has been refused.
- Permission for the phone mast near the Premier Inn has also been refused.

5. Plans for 2019

CW referred to the sheet that she had circulated showing all the activities for the past year.

Many of these were associated with the civic society and required a lot of her time, but whilst they were very good for profile raising they did not directly involve the wider membership. She queried whether more events or activities *for* members should be considered, although this would need support from members to organise.

- **AF** suggested the sort of visits and activities that the *Culture Club* enjoy, although organising these on a larger scale would be quite different.
- Visits to other civic societies (to explore their towns or special places) might involve only moderate organisation if they were hosted by the other civic society – as we did for the Worcester Society last September.
- It was agreed that, as long as enough support could be guaranteed on the day, we should do ART360 and Heritage Open Day again this year.

ACTION: AF/CW/CB/HW

6. Any other Business

- a. **Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust (SBPT) membership renewal:** it was agreed to renew as it offered a useful connection to the Bishop's Barn and associated projects. **CW** would complete the renewal application and ask **RA** to send the £40.00 payment.

ACTION: CW / RA

- b. **RC** expressed concern about the Kings Head and the damage that is being done by the tree growing out of the wall. **AIA** thought he might write to Private Eye about it.

He also asked if there was any news regarding Kendrick Court. **AIA** said that planning permission has been granted for repairs to be carried out but MDC does not have the resources to enforce this. He agreed to email a reminder again.

ACTION: AIA

RC agreed to find out what may have happened to the plaque which used to be on the outside of the Bishop's Barn – through Jane Sharpe (MDC) and / or the relevant councillor (John Parham?) or by gaining access via the Town Hall.

ACTION: RC / AIA

- c. **PW** suggested that the building on the Glastonbury Road which used to house the toll booth might warrant a plaque. It was also pointed out that there is a similar building on the Bristol Road – both marked the city boundary.
- d. **DR** said that the website was out of date and he would like to receive more contributions – in particular the report and photo of each evening meeting by **PW** and Richard Hanks. He also needed the *approved* minutes – rather than the draft.

ACTION: PW / CW

He also suggested that we should produce a paper leaflet, similar to the old one he had found at the museum. **AF** added that paper leaflets are still very popular with visitors despite the plethora of on-line information. He suggested that a "Welcome to Wells" leaflet, branded WCS, could be circulated in several locations and given to visitor's arriving by coach. This needs further investigation.

ACTION: AF / CW / DR

- e. **GB**, following up on his comment on empty shops at the last meeting, reported that in order to display in the windows, the owner's permission was needed and tracing them and gaining access could be difficult. Of premises which are currently empty the former National Trust / Cathedral shop in the Market Place is the most conspicuous. There are discussions about housing the visitor information there but the cost could be prohibitive. It would probably also be a commercial threat to the museum and to the cathedral shop.
- f. **AIA** reported that Andy Vallis had featured on BBC 10pm news ¹ as the Wells Voice is going against the trend towards digital news, reference the Cairncross Report².

7. Date and location of next meeting: 2pm Tuesday March 12th

RC kindly offered to host the meeting at 34 Milton Lane. (note – parking is limited)

¹<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10218929471089154&set=gm.964750857248266&type=3&eid=ARCF76aSapWXZaQxGkQtuMyUeCHm0dVzAvcKNB3MhDXrR07vmRErDx5JSpPRND1MOuQB0jpsQdwPNoME>

²<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cairncross-report-recommends-levelling-of-the-playing-field-for-uk-journalism>

Wells Civic Society March 2019

Committee Minutes

Present: Philip Welch (chair), Adrian I'Anson, John Rackham, Roger Cookman

1. **Apologies** – Chris Winter, Andrew Fawcett, Rosemary Evans, Clare Blackmore, Rodney Angel, and Doug Robinson.
2. **Approve Minutes of last meeting** – these were agreed and signed by Philip Welch.
3. **Matters Arising** – there were no issues.

4. **Chair's Report**

Visit by Coach – we support this campaign which has been shortlisted for an award.

Defib Training – took place the previous evening, **PW** took photos and hoped to get them in the Journal and the Voice.

Wake up Wells – they have organised a meeting tomorrow at Pickwicks of all the voluntary groups that organise community events to discuss the problems they are having to get permission from MDC.

We need a pop-up banner – it was agreed by all those present that would be a worthwhile investment (cost £70).

Civic Voice – all agreed not to continue our financial support at least until its back-up support improves.

April Speakers – Andy Webb, Tudor Hopkins and Ross Young will talk about Welcome to Wells!

Treasurer's Report – nothing of note to report

Plaques – Don the barber declined an Indoor Plaque. He did thank us for considering him. PW to look at Peter Douglas and Studleys as possible recipients. Also considered were the Dry Cleaners in Queen Street, The Good Earth and Luciano's pizza restaurant.

Trees – no problems to report and the trees in Palace Fields were looking healthy.

Planning – nothing really to report. West of Wells planning for 200 houses is still not sorted out. Hedges had been taken out and this has stopped as there were numerous complaints. Park Cottage has received planning permission for its extension.

"What" may include a Peacocks store and possibly the Edinburgh Wool shop as they are owned by the same person. Nothing to report about the Kings Head.

Tomorrow's Speaker – John Jefferies about the Monmouth Rebellion and Judge Jefferies. Usual A/v requirements.

Any Other Business – It was suggested that some of us attend the Annual Parish Meeting in Wells Town Hall which was being held on Wednesday night at 6pm in the Town Hall.

Next Meeting – April 9th 2019 at Rosemary's house.

Many thanks to Roger and Elaine for their excellent hospitality.

March 2019

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY MEETING
APRIL 9TH 2019
COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian I'Anson, Doug Robinson, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies:** Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, John Rackham, Hilary Waters
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** these were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.
3. **Matter Arising:** None to report
4. **Chair's Report:** CW reported on a meeting she had with Andy Vallis of Wells Voice, Robert Powell of the Chamber of Commerce and Kirstie Harris regarding a new Civic Award to be instigated to celebrate members of the community called "The Pride of Wells Awards"

The committee agreed that this was a good idea and that Philippa Threlfall be asked to design an award. Nominations would be asked for through the Wells Voice and a presentation made at the Society AGM was suggested. CW to agree proposals with the other partners. DR suggested a nomination form available via the website. He also agreed to create a "chair@wellscivicsociety...." email address which is more appropriate in many circumstances.

- a) CW thanked the committee for agreeing an extra £50 to cover extra DVDs for the Visit by Coach initiative.
 - b) CW showed the committee several drafts for a new trifold leaflet. It was agreed that 1,000 should be printed for potential members and distribution at other events.¹
 - c) CW and the committee decided to endorse the decision not to renew the Civic Voice membership as it was felt that the money could be better spent. There is the potential to create a regional grouping of civic societies in the south west.
 - d) CW would like to invest in a pop-up banner for public events. This was seen as a good idea and agreed.²
5. **Treasurer's Report:** There were no comments made on the current financial position as all seems well.
 6. **Membership:** The membership is currently over 200 and a new member has recently joined.
 7. **Plaques:** PW showed the committee a photograph of the new architectural plaque for the Liberty and said it would be ready to unveil very soon.³ The next blue plaque would be for the Mitre Hotel in Sadler Street.
 8. **Trees:** Nothing to report
 9. **Planning;** AI reported on the developments of the Old Factory Shop the renovations of which were ongoing. Bubwith Walk will contain 120 new housing units, Tincknells site 25 units. Elm Close was a designated Future Growth area but this designation has been removed and the committee agreed to object to the removal of this designation. The Mermaid has been given planning consent for the front of the site and AI is going to have a look at the planning application for 3 houses at the back of the site at the request of nearby residents.
AI reported that the unsightly tree at the side of the Kings Head has been removed and he has noticed that the pilasters at Barclay's Bank are rotting. PW to let Adrian have the address of the building's owners.

¹ Quote from St Andrews Press £172.00 for 1000.

² Quote from St Andrews Press £75; possibly additional charge for artwork tbc.

³ The unveiling will take place at the Liberty at 2.30 on Wednesday 24th April.

- 10. AOB: RE** agreed to prepare a letter regarding the lack of information at the Bus Station, requesting a 'real-time' timetable as in most other places; also to ask for a crossing across Princes Road by Tesco and the Bus Station which is a major crossing point for pedestrians (instead of at the junction of Priory Road & Princes Road).

The meeting closed at 3.35pm.

The date of the next meeting is TUESDAY MAY 14th 2.00pm. Venue TBC

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee Meeting
held on 7th May 2019

Present: Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham & Chris Winter.

We were all delighted to welcome back Patrick Brown.

1. **Apologies:** Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Rosemary Evans, Adrian I'Anson, Doug Robinson, Hilary Waters and Philip Welch.

2. **Approve Minutes of last Meeting**
Approved and signed.

3. **Matters Arising**

9. No repairs have yet been carried out to the timber at Barclays Bank, Market Place.

4. **Treasurers Report**

Income from subscriptions has increased on last years. **CB** continues to remind members who have not yet paid.

5. **Membership** - Two new members have joined recently; total membership, including Corporate Members, is 208.

6. **Plaques Report**

No report; there is a 'Plaque Trail' on the website and whilst a paper version could encourage visitors to explore the plaques, there are cost implications and each plaque added would require a reprint, which is not feasible.

CB said that a number of the original plaques were missing; she agreed to make enquiries about what might have happened to them.

7. **Environment/Trees**

Nothing to report.

8. **Planning**

No report; the problem of the unsightly planking at Kendrick Court, New Street, remains unresolved. **AIA** would be asked to make further contact with the local authority and/or the owners.

9. **Chair's Report**

i. **Wells in Mosaic:** Siobhan Goodwin is offering a walking tour on the 15th May around the various places that will feature in the Mosaic, to help towards fundraising.¹

A programme of other fundraising events is being planned including:

- Summer Serenade at St Thomas's Church on 29th June
- a Barn Dance at the Bishops Barn in September
- a Chilli & Quiz night in November
- a Gala Dinner & Auction next spring

ii. **BA5 Awards:** A scheme is being developed by **CW** with partners Wells Voice & the Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, to recognise those who make a significant contribution to the community of Wells. Nominations will be requested through Wells Voice, and judged by representatives from the three partners organisations. Plans are

¹ Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled

being made to launch the scheme in August and for presentations to be made at the Seasonal Celebration meeting on December 11th.

- iii. **Art 360°:** This will be held on 13th July at the Bishops Palace. The Committee had already agreed that £50.00 may be spent on materials for this event.² **JR** to enquire about materials which may be available from the Palace's former education room.
- iv. **2019 - 20 Programme:** **CW** has been working with other committee members to develop the programme of speakers, most of which are confirmed.³ In addition there will be a visit hosted by Worcester Civic Society on 14th August and Chester Civic Society will be making a short 'tour' of the area, which will include Wells on October 2nd. **CW** asked **JR** to ensure that the Museum room was booked for the forward programme.
- v. **Pop up Banner & leaflets:** as previously agreed by the committee these have been designed and printed with help from St Andrews Press. The cost for these is £60.00 & £172.00 (resp.) + £12.00 vat = £244.00
- vi. **Wells in Bloom:** the slightly increased request for a donation of £245.00 was agreed.
- vii. **Charity Commission:** **CW** has updated the details of the current committee members – which is a legal requirement – and has set up a new access password and email address.

10. Any Other Business:

- **AF** raised the issue of traffic management in the city; Buxton is an example of a town which has introduced measures which have no negative impacts on traders, and might be looked at along with others where positive changes have been introduced.
- **PB** reported that the Somerset Buildings & Preservation Trust (SBPT) has submitted an application regarding renovation of the Bishops Barn.

11. Next Meeting: 11th June (venue tbc)

² See minutes of meeting held on 9th October 2018 item 4.

³ Copy attached

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 11 2019 2.00pm

PRESENT: Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Philip Welch, Chris Winter

APOLOGIES: Rodney Angel, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, John Rackham, Doug Robinson, Hilary Waters.

- 1. APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** **CB** raised a point from the last minutes to say that one plaque was missing in Mill Street and this was the responsibility of MDC but that she had just asked at the previous meeting if any committee member knew who at MDC was responsible.

CW said that she would change that item in the minutes.

- 2. MATTERS ARISING:** **A I'A** reported by email that Barclays Bank had applied for planning permission to replace the Pallisters on the front of the building.

- 3. CHAIRS REPORT:** **CW** reported that Wells in Mosaic would be having a concert at St Thomas Church "Summer Serenade" to raise funds; ART 360 was to take place at the Bishop's Palace on the afternoon of 13th July; and the programme for next year 2018/2019 was complete and would be distributed to members at the Summer Social and with the newsletter. **CW** also reported that the Tourism Forum (on which she represents the Society) was discussing the location of the Tourist Information Office and other issues relating to visitors.

PW reported that the Neighbourhood Plan had been discussed by the new city council and that **A I'A** was going to draw up a business plan in the hope of taking it forward.

- 4. TREASURERS REPORT:** Spreadsheet circulated; nothing to report.
- 5. MEMBERSHIP:** Nothing to report
- 6. PLAQUES:** **PW** reported that the Mitre Plaque was in progress and that a blue plaque for the City Arms would be put up after research had been done,

with the owner happy to pay for the plaque. **PB** said that he was working on the Chamberlain Street architectural plaque and that this was aimed at being erected in 2020.

7. **ENVIRONMENT: RE** reported that the Sequoia trees in the Bishop's Park were doing fine.
8. **PLANNING: A I'A** had sent through an email with planning updates on the phone mast – “recommend approval”; and parking on Palace Fields. After discussion the committee agreed with his advice to recommend refusal.
9. **AOB: PB** reported that the Bishop's Barn Trustees and the SBPT had met and they were asking for reports on installing heating and improving the acoustics.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3.30PM.

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 13TH at 2pm at ROSEMARY'S HOUSE.

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 13TH 2019 2.00PM

PRESENT: Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Hilary Waters, Philip Welch, Chris Winter

APOLOGIES: Rodney Angel, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian I'Anson, John Rackham, Doug Robinson.

1. **APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.** These were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting on June 11th 2019.
2. **MATTERS ARISING.** RA asked that it be minuted that the cost of **ART 360** be altered from £50 to £51.43 as it went over the agreed amount. The committee were in favour of this. It was further agreed unanimously that a donation of £50 be given to the Bishop's Palace for hosting and supporting the event and providing chairs, tables and a gazebo.
3. **CHAIRS REPORT.** CW presented her report. The **ART 360** event was very successful but a general discussion ensued about carrying it on for a third year. **CB** and **HW** said that they had an idea using digital photography whereby the Civic Society have a stall in the Market Place next summer and we hold a "**Wells in the Moment**" photography exhibition. People would be encouraged to use their mobile phones to take a picture of somewhere in Wells between certain times and What's App or email them to a dedicated address and a competition take place to choose the favourite photograph with a prize of some kind. **CB** and **HW** to develop this idea. Everyone involved in the day was thanked for their support.
4. **TREASURERS REPORT.** The report raised no concerns
5. **MEMBERSHIP.** Nothing to report.
6. **PLAQUES.** PW reported that the Rotary Club had decided to withdraw their support for the plaque scheme as they felt that all the important buildings and events had been highlighted. There are two more blue plaques which the owners of the buildings have agreed to pay for and the final architectural plaque in Chamberlain Street is still to be ordered.
7. **ENVIRONMENT.** RE reported that there were no significant issues with the trees or the environment.
8. **PLANNING.** A I'A had emailed a comprehensive report on planning issues in the city and he is to present a report on the Neighbourhood Plan to the City Council on

September 5th. The committee felt that thanks should be minuted to Adrian for all his excellent work on the society's behalf in this area.

9. **AOB. CB** asked if the Civic Society could support the exhibition at the museum of the Philips photographs by making a contribution towards having a representative third life size image created to stand outside the museum to advertise the event.

September 21st to October 4th.

This was agreed in principle and would be reconsidered when **CB** had investigated the cost.

PB said that he had a significant number of slides of Wells from the 1960s onwards, which may be of historical value. He would like to see them digitised and saved for posterity.

CW reviewed the dates for coming events. In her absence, **CB** agreed to welcome the visitors from Chester on 2nd October. There will be no celebration of Heritage Open Day in September this year.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3.30PM

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 8TH AT 2PM VENUE TBC

**Wells Civic Society
Committee Meeting
8th October 2019**

Draft minutes

Present: Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Adrian l'Anson Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies:** Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham, Doug Robinson & Hilary Waters
2. **Approve Minutes of last Meeting (13/08/19):** Agreed
3. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda:** None
4. **Officers' Reports:**
 - a. **Chair** (see circulated report)
 - The contribution of £72.00 to Phillip's Portrait Exhibition at the Museum was **agreed**. Cheque payable to The Wells & Mendip Museum. In view of the fact that the exhibition made a contribution (among other things) to civic pride and the community it was proposed that the costs for stationery etc borne by CB & Diane Bingham should be reimbursed by the society. (ITRO £200.00) This was **agreed**. CB & DB to advise the precise amount and all to be asked to agree.
 - b. **Treasurer** (report attached – no matters arising)
 - CW expressed gratitude to RA for his work as treasurer. Ian Robinson had volunteered to take over the role; it was proposed and **agreed** that he should be co-opted until the AGM when he would be nominated formally. In the interim he, RA and Marilyn Cantell (who inspectors the accounts) would meet for a hand-over.
 - c. **Membership:** nothing to report
 - d. **Plaques**
 - PW reported that he has received listed building consent for the plaque at **The Mitre** in Sadler Street (now Minski's); wording has been agreed and the Shepherd's have agreed to pay for it. It is hoped that this will be installed before Christmas.
 - Bruce Ashwin, of **The City Arms** (formerly the City gaol), has also agreed to pay for the plaque on his building, and to remove the current (incorrect) information. CB is advising on the history and with the book launch (28th November). This will be the final blue plaque.
 - The final architectural plaque is planned for Chamberlain Street; PB was asked to do the drawings and owners of the building (Pilgrim Finance) would be asked for permission – as well as the usual planning permissions.
 - PW has offered **indoor plaques** to the Ballesteros family in Queen Street, the jewellers in Broad Street and City News in the High Street but has received no responses.
 - It was agreed that a Plaques Trail – possibly in leaflet form, as well as on the website – could be completed once all the planned plaques are in place.

e. Environment & Trees

- RE reported that A-boards on the High Street are a hazard to the disabled and sight impaired, as is broken and uneven paving. AIA said that these are 'obstructions' and should be reported to Somerset County Council.
- CW & RE have both recently looked at the sequoia trees planted by the society on Palace Fields, which are finally looking as if they have established well.
- The Cathedral School has stopped using chemical weed killer along the footpath off Tor Hill.

f. Planning

- AIA gave updates on several issues including the Rugby Club redevelopment, Mistral shopfront, former What! and The Old Deanery. A group of residents has 'expressed an interest' in purchasing this but currently has no financial backing. An application has been made to recognise the Old Deanery Garden as an 'asset of community value' which would offer some protection from development.
- Kendrick Court, New Street: still no progress but AIA is optimistic that once the planning backlog is cleared the new members of MDC may be inclined to enforce the reinstatement of the wall/gateway.

5. Preparation for the AGM (13th November)

The following were considered and agreed:

- Minutes of the last AGM (09/01/19)
- Annual report –draft
- Annual accounts – *awaited from the Inspector*
- Agenda

The papers would be circulated by email to members and made available on the website.

It was agreed that in future only members who could not be contacted in any other way would receive hard copies of papers.

6. Any other Business

- a) Southover heritage event:** this had been another success, with a small number of people doing a great deal of hard work. Next year an event might focus of the history of St Cuthbert's Street.
- b) AIA reported that the Wells Neighbourhood Plan** is being revived. The City Council is supportive, and a small group of volunteers has come forward. Whilst nationally many Plans have now been 'made', locally many have stalled, including Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet and St Cuthberts Out.
- c) PB has a large collection of 35mm slides of Wells from 1966-2016** which could be of historic interest to the city and/or the museum but would require digitising and cataloguing.
- d) RE reported that the City Council were discussing traffic problems in St Thomas Street with Somerset CC;** a survey and report is expected.

7. Date of next Meeting: 12th November – venue tbc

Wells Civic Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12th November 2019

Present: Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Adrian l'Anson, John Jefferies, John Rackham, Doug Robinson, Ian Robinson and Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies:** Andrew Fawcett, Hilary Waters and Philip Welch.
2. **Approve Minutes of the last meeting:** 8th October 2019 – they were agreed without alteration.
3. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda”:**
 - the cheque for £72 to Wells Museum for our contribution to the photo enlargement of Ismailia needs to be paid. CW to action
 - ensuring that **CB** and Diana Bingham are suitably reimbursed by the Society following their costs for the Philip’s Portrait Exhibition, which the Society is very pleased to sponsor. It was agreed that £100 each should be paid.
4. **Chair’s report: (circulated)**

It was the intention to raise a number of issues for full discussion at the next meeting.

5. **Planning:**

At the recent meeting of the Planning Board, the outline application for 100 houses south of Elm Close was deferred for 6 months. The Society had lodged an objection to inclusion of the site as an option in the Local Plan.

There was also discussion on the proposed “walkway” attached to ruins of the Great Hall at the Bishop’s Palace. Historic England and the Garden Society are both in favour but Mendip Conservation Advisory Panel have objected. The Committee decided to make no comment.

The City Council are reviving the Neighbourhood Plan.

There was a brief discussion about applications relating to the rollout of 5G coverage. The City Council have decided, on the basis of the precautionary principle, to recommend refusal of any such applications.

Martin Cook is proposing that the redundant Police Station on Glastonbury Road should be proposed for listing. The Committee saw no merit in such a proposal.

6. **Membership:**

Approximately 200 members were listed but on closer scrutiny some records were found to be out of date. The database has now been updated which will also make it easier to contact members to ensure maximum benefit from Gift Aid. IR will contact those not currently claimed for to check whether they qualify. Care has to be taken when contact members regarding GDPR.

We need to try to recruit more members and a leaflet drop was suggested (especially on new housing estates) which might be considered in the New Year. Corporate membership is very low and CW suggested an early evening event for local business people early in 2020 to encourage their engagement.

7. **Plaques:**

PW had submitted a report for inclusion in the Annual Report; there was no further discussion.

8. Environment & Trees:

RE reported that the Cathedral School is no longer using weed killer at the Tor Street site after a campaign lead by Sustainable Wells.

The location of *Serious Stages* (former quarry site) off Tor Street has increased its vehicle capacity – increasing lorry and van traffic, which she thought may need ‘change of use’ permission.

There is an expectation for improved waste collections; in May Mickey Green, Managing Director of Somerset Waste Partnership, will be addressing the Society and should be able to clarify this.

9. Treasurer’s report:

WCS had total assets of just under £24,000. Cash income of £3,104 slightly exceeded expenditure (£2,910), of which the largest portions were £936 spent on donations and membership, and £676 on plaques.

This year, the new Treasurer, Ian Robinson, said he will focus more attention on ensuring WCS maximises the gift aid we can claim back.

He will support the Committee in ensuring that members readily understand the accounts and are regularly kept up to date on the financial position. One of the aims will be to ensure that members can take informed decisions about priorities for expenditures in the coming year.

10. AGM:

Everything is in place for the meeting, and CW expressed her thanks to Marilyn Cattell (Examiner) and Rodney Angle (outgoing Treasurer) for their efforts and time preparing the accounts.

Regrettably AF will be performing on his own for the talk “Secrets of the Silver Screen” as Richard Green has had a family bereavement.

CW welcomed Jon Jefferies as a co-opted member of the Committee.

11. Any other Business:

- i. PB suggested that the significant changes to the city after WW2 could be the subject of a photographic exhibition - ‘Wells 1950-2000’ – and prior to more recent expansion in housing development. It was agreed that this would be considered as part of the future programming plans.
- ii. We still have a commitment to Wells in Mosaic of £7,000, which is held in a reserve account; there is, as yet, no proposal about when these funds would be required for the project.
- iii. The sale of the Old Deanery: two parties have made bids and one of these is a Wells community project. The Wells partnership is under pressure to demonstrate how they would fund the project.

12. Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th December 2pm at Rosemary’s house.

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
10th December 2019

Present – Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Jon Jefferies, John Rackham, Ian Robinson, Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies** – Graham Barrow, Patrick Brown, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian I’Anson, Doug Robinson & Hilary Waters.
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting** (12th November 2019) - agreed without alteration.
3. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda** - none.

Officers’ reports:

4. **Treasurer’s Report** – IR reported that there this is a surplus of <£1,000>. He is hopefully that Gift Aid will generate more than £180 (2018/19) in future; £300 is the target for 2019/20, which will need many existing members to complete the appropriate form.

Marilyn Cantell was thanked for inspecting the accounts and CW had given her a box of chocolates. As advised by the inspector, it was discussed and noted that the Treasurer and the Chair cohabit. The committee members are aware of this and agreed that with appropriate transparency and due diligence, it was acceptable. A third signatory (the Vice Chair PW) would countersign with *either* CW *or* IR, when a payment required a second signature (in accordance with the bank’s mandate).

5. **Membership Report** – After an extensive exercise to examine the membership list, many were found not to have paid subscriptions or for various reasons let membership lapse. A truer total is 165, although outstanding subscriptions expected to be paid in December and January, should bring this to around 173.

Corporate Members – only two subscribe regularly. It was agreed that recruiting more should be one of the main aims of 2020. To be discussed further in January.

JJ suggested that the WCS leaflets should be distributed to new residents to let them know what the Society does and to encourage new members. Several committee members offered their time to do this. To be discussed further in January.

6. **Plaques** – PW expressed disappointment that more committee members did not attend the unveiling of the plaque at the former Mitre Hotel (now Minskys) in Sadler Street on 19th November. It was reported in both the Wells Journal and Wells Voice.

The City Arms will receive the next plaque, which the owner is paying for, with the Society paying for the installation.

A suggestion has been received that a plaque should commemorate the stocking knitting trade in Priest Row, although this is unlikely to be appropriate.

An architectural plaque will be installed on the corner of Chamberlain Street and Sadler Street, when the appropriate permissions are in place.

Several other possible future sites were discussed: City News, the old mills and railways.

JJ volunteered to ‘survey’ the plaques in the city as some may now be considered redundant.

7. **Planning** - an application for 145 houses has been submitted to Mendip in the field beyond the former Thales site on the Wookey Hole Road. Al'A has yet to submit the Society's comments to the LPA.

8. **Trees & Environment** – RE reported that approx. 100 young oak trees have been planted in the fields to the south of east Wells*, which was welcomed. (*accessed via Tor Street or Woodbury Avenue)

Residents living adjacent to the recreation ground are lobbying MDC to prune the large lime trees.

Residents of Blisslands on St Thomas Street are seeking permission to prune their beech tree by 4 metres.

9. **Chair's Report** - At the last meeting CW suggested that a budget should be agreed for the coming year. Each item of expected expenditure was discussed:

a) **Wells in Bloom** – Concern was expressed about the environmental and ecological impact of current planting practices – the flowers used are not 'insect friendly' and are discarded according to the *date* rather than the state of the plants.

The Society currently makes a contribution of £245 per annum to the City Council for WiB, and in addition gives a £25 cheque to the school winning the David Nasmith award. It was agreed to continue this support whilst also lobbying for improved practices.

b) **Visit by Coach** - The Society has made significant contributions to this initiative, but in view of the fact that the VisitWells project is moving on and is expected to become fully funded, no further financial contribution is envisaged. CW is a member of the Tourism Forum and agreed to continue to represent the Society.

c) **Plaques** – as 6. above spending on the remaining plaques has already been agreed.

d) **Plaque Trail** – When all the plaques are in place, it was agreed that a 'Trail' would encourage residents and visitors to explore the City.

CW's research showed that a printed leaflet might cost itro £250; this could be widely distributed via the Town Hall, Museum, hotels etc. There might also be costs for the design. Sponsorship could be considered.

The trail could also be made available as a mobile phone app, although this would need the advice of an IT specialist.

e) **Art360** - This annual event has cost very little (<£50>) but takes time to organise and to run. CB and HW are considering a different format this year which will be discussed at a later date.

f) **Somerset Buildings and Preservation Trust (SBPT)** – Membership is £40.00 per annum. It was agreed to continue to subscribe.

g) **Photograph Exhibition (1)** – Following the success of the Philip's Portraits Exhibition at the Museum further opportunities are being considered in order that historic, social records are shared more widely.

In cooperation with the Mendip Cemetery, photographs of patients and staff of the Mendip Hospital will be exhibited.

It was agreed that the Society should make a contribution to this project. CB agreed to report the expected costs in order that a sum may be agreed.

- h) **Photograph Exhibition (2)** PB had previously suggested that his collection of slides of Wells from c1950 to 2000 might be digitised and exhibited. It was agreed that this should be explored further.
- i) **Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities & Towns (ACT)** – CW is a member of the Steering Group which has secured funding from Historic England for research into the impact of housing growth on historic towns and cities, and is keen to continue. It is not yet clear whether the funding will cover travel to meetings in London & Oxford. If not, the committee will consider financial support for CW.
- j) **Wells in Mosaic** – the agreed sum of £7,000 is held in a reserve account to be contributed to the project as and when appropriate.

Concern was expressed that the Society could lose significant resources should the project not be completed. CW agreed look into this and see if there was any way the investment could be protected.
- k) **Corporate Event** – (see 5. above) An event for local business people will be considered in the New Year, as part of the recruitment drive.
- l) **Tourist Information Centre** – this will move from the Museum to the Town Hall in February 2020, as part of the VisitWells project. It was suggested that links with and to the Society's website should be included.
- m) **Wells Waterways** –The survey carried out in 2016 has been shared with the Mills Group, which is taking forward to project linking the mills and the waterways. No further funding is envisaged.

10. Seasonal Celebration 11th December – Everything is in place and CW said she looks forward to seeing everyone there tomorrow evening.

11. Any Other Business

- a) RC asked about the Lidl extension and whether Travis Perkins will be moving when their lease expires, although they have expressed hopes to remain in the City.
- b) CW thanked RE for her continued hospitality and gave her a box of chocolates.

12. Next Meeting - 2pm 7th January 2020, 102 St Thomas Street (hosted by RE).

2018 minutes

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE MINUTES JANUARY 10 2018

Present: Philip Welch, Clare Blackmore, Chris Winter, Graham barrow, Doug Robinson, Andrew Fawcett, Rosemary Evans.

Apologies: Rod Hudsmith, Hilary Waters, Adrian l'Anson, Patrick Brown, Rodney Angel, Roger Cookman, John Rackham

1. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a correct record by the chair.

2. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Reports:

3. Plaque Report; **PW** told the meeting that an indoor plaque had been presented to Leon the barber and one was going to be presented to DH James.

On Monday 22nd January at 10.00 a blue plaque would be unveiled at 7a Portway on the site of the old Brine's Brush Factory and a date is yet to be fixed for the plaque on The Rib.

4. Environment; **RE** reported that the rubbish in Tor Woods had been cleaned up by the Bristol Orienteering Society.

5. Planning; the committee decided to leave the consultation response on Local Plan Part 2 to Adrian and Graham in light of their expertise. **PW** write to the City Council about the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

6. AGM; **CW** went through the strategy for the AGM. Doug Robinson and Hilary Waters were nominated by **CB** and seconded by **GB as full members of the committee.** **AF** agreed to organise the refreshments as usual.

7. Strategy Document 20:20 Vision; **CW** led a discussion on the document and the proposition to increase fees. The committee decided to ask for £15 for single membership and £20 for joint membership with £25 for corporate membership for companied under 10 employees and £50 for those with over 10 employees.

8. Venue for future meetings; **CW** reported that Pickwick's wanted £25 to cover heating and lighting. The committee commented that the room was that day very cold and poorly lit and that £25 was a large amount to pay.

AI and RE offered their homes as a venue. **AF** said he would ask the Old Mill if their room could be used and **PW** would ask the Connect Centre.

9. The committee universally thanked Doug for his excellent work on the website.

10. AOB

- The committee voted to donate £50 to the SOS campaign to Save Our Swan. **AF** showed members the letter from HRH the Queen regarding the campaign.
- It was agreed that **CW** would invite Rachel Hewson to the next meeting speak about The Strawberry Line.
- **CW** gave a brief update on the Wells in Mosaic project.
- There will be a Traders' Event at The Swan on 19th February; an opportunity to engage with the business sector.

- The next SOUP to be held on 13th January in Seagers Hall. It was suggested that WCS might apply to present at SOUP.
- Waterways project: CW to send a copy of the survey & report to Rosemary and to Doug for the website.
- CW was meeting with Chris Lee who has offered to design the leaflet and strategy document.

Date of next meeting: **February 13th 2.00pm venue to be confirmed.**

The meeting closed at 3.50pm

Wells Civic Society

Committee Minutes 13th February 2018

Present - Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, John Rackham, Doug Robinson and Chris Winter

1. **Apologies** - Rodney Angel, Patrick Brown, Rod Hudsmith, Hilary Waters and Philip Welch
2. **Approve Minutes of the last Meeting** - These were approved and signed by Chris Winter.
3. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda** - None
4. **Chair's Report** - **CW** thanked Rosemary Evans for hosting the Committee meeting.

4.d. Plaques There has been some concern from the local Rotary Club, that have been supporting and part funding the blue plaques initiative, that a) plaques could be undervalued if they are too many and too frequent, and b) that the cost needs to be managed.

Geoff Haskins reported that the Rotary committee agreed to support two plaques per year for the next two years. It was agreed that this was reasonable, and as we also present the indoor and architectural plaques, there was ample opportunity to progress the project as a whole.

4.f. Concerns had been raised about the future of the **Trading Post** (the building), owned by Dave Masters, when the current tenants leave at the end of March. It is not listed nor within the conservation area and is surrounded by new housing development. **AI'A** agreed to speak to Dave Masters regarding plans for the building's future.

5. **Subscriptions Survey** has been circulated; the result will be reported the next committee meeting.

It was agreed that a scale of subscriptions should be put in place for Corporate Members:

Under 10 employees £25 10 - 50 employees £50 over 50 employees £100

When increases are agreed this should be published on our website and notified to all our Members with a new standing order form. The survey has also been a good opportunity to up date members' contact details.

6. 20:20 Vision Document - comments have been noted and the document will be produced in time for the Wells in Business event on 19th February. Thanks to AF & CB for this opportunity to raise the profile with local businesses.

Waterways - A local group interested in the mills of Wells has formed and it could be a useful to combine our interest – in particular the survey commissioned by WCS. CW is in conversation with Julia Wood to progress.

ART 360 – CB has approached the Bishop's Palace to repeat this very successful event; Rosie Martin is very supportive and a date is being explored - possibly July 28th. It is hoped D H James will again provide support. Good signage is needed and more support is required from the Committee and Members.

7. Data Protection Registration - the existing rules change on the 25th May. The essence of the new rules is that we must only hold details of members if they are strictly required. We must 'cleanse' our data, removing all old records and have the agreement of members to hold the data and to use it only to contact them for agreed purposes. We do not hold 'sensitive' data (eg: bank details) so it is unlikely to be problematic. But we do need a clear policy about data and to put this prominently on all communications including the website. CW, AIA & DR agreed to meet to progress the necessary actions.

AI'A to be reimbursed for the registration fee.

Civic Voice Subscription - It was agreed that we should renew membership. It was proposed by **CB** and seconded by **AI'A**.

We must look at their insurance package and compare it with the quote from Higos. Renewal is due on 1st April.

Other benefits need to be explored and taken advantage of if applicable – free banking with the Coop; hosting our website.

Apparently, there are a number of inaccuracies on the **website** (eg: location of members on the map), **AI'A/DR** agreed to draw these to the attention of CV and ask for information about hosting.

Civic Day 16th June - CW & CB have discussed involvement with Cllr Celia Wride who will be Mayor and is keen to support the event.

6. Trees - The sheep have eaten the bark of the sequoia trees.

There is also a large Copper Beech that is to have its canopy trimmed in Ash Lane.

7. Planning - There is an application for a new car wash in Palace Farm, **AI'A** feels that the access is inadequate and has recommends that this application should be refused. He was asked to submit this to the Planning Committee.

Kendrick Court - **AI'A** is monitoring progress.

AI'A agreed to update members at tomorrow evening's meeting about planning issues.

8. Andy Webb/Tomorrow's Speaker – Everything is arranged for the talk about Wells' bid for Culture City in 2021. **CW** will offer yellow roses to members as it will be St Valentine's Day.

9. Any Other Business - **RE** is concerned about a house in St Thomas Street that has apparently been unoccupied for 10 years. How do neighbours get action to ensure not a rubbish tip/health hazard? **RE** will attend local meeting about the house.

“Fix my Street”- Council left rubbish in their field after clearing stream, it is still there one year later!!
RE is asking for help!!

Renewal of Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust £40 - agreed

Events:

Free Recycle Event - Good Earth Car park 4th March 10.00am to 12.00 (NB: this was cancelled due to bad weather. It is rescheduled for 25th March 10.30-12)

Wells in Business Event at the Museum 19th February

International Women's Day event Kennion Hall Blue School 7.15pm 10th March

10. Date of next Meeting - at Rosemary's 2.00pm Tuesday 13th March.

The meeting welcomed **Rachel Hewson, secretary of the Strawberry Line Association**, who talked about the project to open the former railways as cycle and walking paths. There have been significant successes but remained a number of places that were proving very difficult to access. Support for the project was expressed by all.

6th March 2018.

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 13TH MARCH 2018

Present: Rodney Angel, Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Doug Robinson, Adrian l'Anson, Philip Welch & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies** Graham Barrow, Patrick Brown, Rod Hudsmith John Rackham & Hilary Waters.
2. **The minutes for the last meeting** were approved and signed by Chris Winter
3. **Matters Arising.** None

4. **Chairs Report**

Chris reported on the findings of the survey regarding increasing the subscriptions. There had been a 48% response and based on the outcome, the membership fee would be raised to £15 for a single and £20 for a joint membership.

This was proposed by **CB** and seconded by **Al'A**.

A standing order form would be sent to every member to try to encourage this way of payment.

4a Corporate Membership This would change to;

Under 10 employees £25

10 to 50 employees £50

Over 50 employees £100

CW to approach Robert Powell of Wells Chamber of Commerce to have a joint event to encourage more interest in the Society by business in Wells.

4b CW read points from Hilary and these were noted.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

RA reported that he had tried to ring Civic Voice about our membership renewal and liability insurance but with no success.

Higos had quoted £162 a year; **RA** to look into and try to contact Civic Voice again.

6. **Membership Report**

CB reported that membership numbers were very healthy at the moment.

7. **Plaques.** **PW** reported that there had been a meeting with Geoff Haskins of the Rotary Club and that they had agreed to 2 x blue plaques per year and that he was working with Patrick on the last 2 architectural plaques. The next plaques would be the Gibbet at Keward and the Mitre Hotel. The unveiling of the Elizabeth Goudge plaque at the Rib had been very successful and **PW** also reported that he had presented an indoor plaque to DH James.

8. **Environment**

RE reported that the Sequoia trees had had their bark chewed by the sheep and that she would look at putting some netting around the fencing to protect them in future.

9. **Planning**

Al'A had some good news in his report:

- Seasalt have applied for planning to alter the shop front at the former InterSport in the High Street in line with the Mendip Shop Front Policy.
- Also, he reported that Kendrick Court had applied to erect a pair of gates where the old wooden panelling is.
- There was no news on former What! site but Adrian said that the front of the shop is in a dire structural state.
- He also said that the challenge to houses on the Wookey Hole Road site had been lost but it would be wise to keep an eye on the Section 106 money.

- He had asked the town clerk for details of the city council's response to Local Plan Part II.
- There had been discussions locally about actions to combat loneliness - men's shed, talking café, death café etc. This was noted.
- It was unclear what the future of the King's Head, in the High Street, was to be.

AF proposed that the *Visit by Coach* project, which was coming to the end of the consultant's two-year contact, should continue to receive our support. The project had been very successful in its first stages and the other funders (Cathedral, Bishops Palace, Museum and Chamber of Commerce and Tourism) were expected to maintain their level of financial support. **It was agreed** that £500 for a further year should be contributed by WCS.

10. Website

DR said that the new regulations had been applied and that the site was secure and to please keep sending him articles and photos for the website. To comply with the new Data Protection regulations, a policy statement would be added to the website.

11. Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust

PB had forwarded the invoice for the renewal of membership to **CW** and it was proposed by **CB** and seconded by **RC** that we should renew. The fee is £40 pa; **RA** agreed to set up a standing order and **CW** would write to the secretary to confirm.

12. Wells City Band

CW had a request for a £200 donation to help Wells City Band produce a booklet about the history of the band. It was universally felt that we should support this but felt that £100 would be a sufficient donation. This was proposed by **PW** and seconded by **CW**. **RA** gave a cheque to **CW** which she would send with a letter to the treasurer.

13. AOB

CB reported that there was to be a meeting with Rosie Martin of the Bishop's Palace to put the **ART 360** in place for July.

RE was thanked again for her wonderful hospitality and it was decided there should be a kitty to cover the costs of tea and coffee.

CB reported that the date for the launch of the book on William Catcott would be 20th July.

AI'A said that he was in conversation with Paul Cannon regarding music by his jazz band for the summer social event in June; it was agreed that he might offer up to £100 in remuneration.

Date of next meeting; April 10th 2pm at Rosemary's

The meeting closed at 3.45pm

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY APRIL 10 2018 2.00PM

Present: Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian I'Anson, John Rackham, Doug Robinson, Hilary Waters, Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

Apologies: Rodney Angel & Rod Hudsmith

1. The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true and correct record by the chair.

2. Matters Arising. None

3. Chairs Report (circulated)

a) CW circulated letters regarding new data permission, membership increase which are to be posted to all members. The cost of this exercise will be about £200¹ and **the committee agreed** that this cost would be met as the process is a legal requirement and all members have to be contacted and return the appropriate permission.

b) CW reported that the insurance is now sorted and renewed.

c) CW and RE have put wire around the base of the Sequoia trees to stop the sheep eating the bark and damaging the trees.

4. Treasurer's Report: received; no comments.

5. Wells in Mosaic Project.

This is now progressing and a launch photograph will be taken this week. **CW** proposed that the Civic Society donation, or part thereof, should be made soon to increase publicity.

PW said that the membership should be reminded about the donation as it is a large amount of money. **It was agreed** that **CW** should present an 'imitation' cheque for £5,000 (in lieu of the real thing) when Ian and Ruth give their talk on 11th April.²

6. Planning

AIA reported that:

- Kendrick Court is to replace the wood panel with gates and also replace the single gate with a wooden gate.
- The fascia of *The Works* has been improved.
- The Neighbourhood Plan has stalled.

7. Environment

Nothing to report; RE continues to monitor trees and litter issues closely. **AIA** to forward any relevant planning applications to RE.

8. Plaques

PW reported that he and **PB** had discussed the architectural plaques and the wording was passed around the committee; it was agreed that this might be précised in order that the plaques should be clearly readable.

PW said that buying the blue plaques directly from manufacturer would be significantly cheaper. In the light if this he would talk to Signefex to see if they could reduce their price.

¹ The cost of printing, stamps and envelopes was £204.50

² Donations up to 20% of the costs or £12,500 were agreed at the beginning of the project. See minutes: June 7th 2016 2.5 & 9th August 2016 4.ii

The proposal for blue plaques on the Mitre Hotel building in November and the City Arms in the spring of 2019 was **agreed**. The owners had agreed to make significant contributions to the costs. PW would continue to discuss future joint ventures with the Rotary Club.

At this point Tessa Munt (SCC Councillor for Wells) was welcomed to the meeting.

9. TM told the meeting that she had visited a planning site at the bottom end of Jocelyn Drive on which there was a waterwheel from an old mill which is about 12 to 15ft high and which she regards as part of the heritage of the city and although dilapidated, worth saving. She wanted to speak to the Civic Society to garner support for the possible relocation and saving of this wheel. All agreed it was worth saving and that the Civic Society would support the project. Tessa said she would do some more investigation as to ownership of the wheel and she would talk to the Mill Research Group at the museum. **CW** said that this could all tie in with the Civic Society's waterways survey and that we would welcome the opportunity to work together.

10. TM also reported that she is researching, on behalf of the Visit by Coach group, a site where the coaches can park for free. The current charging policy at MDC only raises about £700 per year from coach and lorry parking. The Visit by Coach project is progressing well.

Tessa left at 3.10pm

11. Membership. Nothing to report until letters have gone out regarding the increase in fees and data protection.

12. Local Listing. Nothing to report

13. Newsletter. **HW** has taken this on and is drafting it at the moment.

14. AOB

- **Civic Day** June 16th. **CB** has been talking to **DR** and it was proposed to have a photographic display in which people can submit a photograph of their favourite part of the city with picture to be sent to a dedicated email and the best to be displayed on the day.
CW to talk to Celia Wride about working with the city council.
- **Art 360** **HW, CW, CB** had met with Rosie Martin from the Bishop's Palace and they are happy to host the event on July 21st 1pm to 4pm. **HW, CB, CW** to meet to move this forward.
- **Next year's programme.** **JR** suggested Cathedral Organist Matthew Owen as a speaker. Len Swailes, Town Cryer, was also suggested. **CW** asked committee to have a think about possible speakers as we have no programme secretary and the events need to be agreed as soon as possible for the programme starting in October.
- **AIA** reported that Somerset County Council were to 'adopt' the Strawberry Line Cycle Path.
- There will be a street event in and around Southover / South Street on 23rd June to celebrate St Etheldreda and the history of the area; contact **AIA** for details.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AT ROSEMARY'S HOUSE TUESDAY MAY 8TH 2.00pm.

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH MAY 2PM

Present: Rodney Angel, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

Apologies: Graham Barrow, Roger Cookman, Rod Hudsmith, Adrian l'Anson, John Rackham, Doug Robinson and Hilary Waters.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true and correct record by the chair.

2. **Matters Arising.** None.

3. **Chair's Report.** (Circulated)

a) **CW** reported that the newsletter was in progress. Hilary had done the first draft.

b) **CW** reported that Civic Voice were holding a two day conference (19th – 20th October) <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/get-involved/agm/> with a good list of speakers in Birmingham and alerted anyone who would like to attend.

c) **CW** reported that the Alliance of Cathedral Cities and Historic Towns (ACT) had sent a research proposal - "Balancing Heritage and Growth in Cathedral Cities and Historic Towns" - to Historic England.

d) **CW** has been asked to organise a South West Forum on behalf of Civic Voice.

e) **CW** continued to encourage James Heapey MP, to represent Wells at the Parliamentary meetings for civic societies (APPG). All members of Civic Voice can attend free of charge. Next one scheduled for 6th June. <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/get-involved/appg/>

f) **Visit by Coach:** Mendip D C has agreed to waive coach parking charges for one year: the consultant engaged for one more year then the forum will have to think about how to manage the project themselves. It has been an excellent project to date.

4) **Treasurers' Report.** **RA** wanted to discuss the donation of £5,000 for the Wells in Mosaic project. The committee had agreed to donate £5,000 but **RA** raised concerns due to lack of a business plan as the initial cost of £60,000 has now risen to £80,000. The committee had agreed to donate £12,000 or 20% and the Lions were also funding.

CW explained that a Community Interest Company had now been set up which would track costs and income and that no grant applications could be made until the CIC was in place. This will now go ahead.

RA said that the two investment accounts were producing a decent interest but that the Scottish Widows account could be closed, it stands at £4,916.10, and added to the current account and the £5,000 taken from there.

RA advised that the investments should stay as they are.

RA had spoken to Charities Aid; and a letter needs to be written by **CW** and **RA** to give permission to close the Scottish Widows account and that the investment funds to be looked at on a later date.

This action by the treasurer was agreed by the committee.

5) **Planning: Park Cottage:** **RA** raised the state of Park Cottage which is looking very tatty and dilapidated. There is an application for a Shepherds Hut which is to be a tea room. **A'IA** had looked at the planning application and raised no concerns.

Mendip D C have instigated a Car Parks Review which would look Mendip-wide and not specifically at Wells.

6) Environment: RE had nothing specific to report but CW said that the problem of litter in the city had been highlighted by Celia Wride with the litter picks and that Sustainable Wells was raising the concern over single use plastic.

7) Plaques: PW reported on a conversation he had with Signefex over their 84% mark up on plaques. He also talked to the supplier in Whitby and discussions were ongoing but we may have to look for another supplier. CW suggested we approach Civic Voice and ask other Civic Society members where they obtained their plaques from.

PB shared a plan for the placement of the architectural plaque on the wall of The Lantern House in the Liberty.

8) Membership. Nothing to report; numbers continue to grow slowly.

9) 2018/2019 Programme: CW asked for suggestions for next year's programme and CB offered to help in planning¹.

a) Prosecco in the Pavilion – Summer Social June 13th. CW agreed with Cathedral School. It was universally agreed that this was a lovely idea and that strawberries and shortbread and cream would also be served. AIA inviting the Wells Jazz Collective.

10) Civic Day: DR to be asked if we can set up a dedicated email for the public to send in photographs of their favourite places in Wells.

11) Art 360: this is progressing with the agreement of the Bishop's Palace and CB will begin to circulate press about the event.

12) AOB:

- **AF** asked if there were any developments on the water wheel. Nothing heard to date.
- **RE** to draft a letter to Mendip in support of Plastic Free Wells and increasing items that can be recycled as reportedly Somerset does not have a good record in comparison with other counties.
- **Wells in Bloom: It was agreed** that £200 to be paid in support of Wells In Bloom and also a £20 voucher to be donated to the winning school in memory of David Nasmyth.
- **Chamber of Commerce:** CW to speak to Chamber of Commerce & Tourism on Monday 4th June at 6pm at Old Mill about the work of the Civic Society and to encourage more corporate membership. All welcome.
- **WW1 Remembrance and War Memorials:** after brief discussion it was agreed that as there were to be many events run by other organisations we would not do one but might partner with someone else. Geoff Dickson might also be invited to speak about the Museum's WW1 exhibition at the November meeting.
- **Library:** The Civic Society had been asked to participate in an exhibition on 2nd June on a water theme. Use could be made of the waterways report which Sean Plenty was commissioned to carry out.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING JUNE 12TH 2PM. VENUE TBC.

¹ Sarah Villiers - bondage, Sarah Hare - Deanery Gardens, Len Swales – Town Cryer, Carmelite Convent ? (PW),

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12th June 2pm at Adrian's house

Present: Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

Apologies: Rosemary Evans, Rod Hudsmith, John Rackham, Doug Robinson and Hilary Waters.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true and correct record by the chair.

2. Matters Arising.

2a. The newsletter is ready; with thanks to Hilary. Committee members to distribute.

3. Chair's Report. (Circulated)

a) **CW** reported that there was a successful meeting with the Chamber of Commerce with some positive outcomes. The Civic Society and Chamber are to work with Tom Ronan on a Plastic Free Wells and also to work on the waterways project to move it on.

b) The Visit by Coach group are running out of maps to hand out and the Civic Society offered to joint fund a further printing at a cost of £125 each with the Chamber. This was AGREED by the CS committee.

c) **CW** suggested that we need to have a definitive strategy for expenditure and budget. **RA** to look at our fixed costs and bring some numbers to the next meeting.

d) **CW** reported that Civic Voice were holding a two day conference 19/20th October with a good list of speakers in Birmingham and alerted anyone who would like to attend.

c) **RA** gave Chris a cheque for £330.00, the donation to the Somerset Poppies Project and a cheque for £100 to **AIA** for the Wells Jazz Collective for the summer social on 13th June, as agreed by the committee.

4) Treasurers' Report. **RA** confirmed that £5000 had been paid to Wells in Mosaic and the investment account had been closed. He had nothing further to report and the committee were happy with the finance report.

5) Planning. **Al'A** said that all was relatively quiet. Sea Salt had opened and Grape Foods were going into the former Jones the Bootmaker empty shop and were retaining the shop front. The Local Plan Part II is scheduled for the autumn.

6) Environment & Tress. Nothing to report.

7) Plaques. **PW** reported on a conversation he had with the Yorkshire suppliers and they had agreed to do two plaques a year at the cheaper price. He had met with a builder who had agreed to build the plinth for the gibbet plaque for free and he expected this to happen within the next two months. Jon Jefferies is joint funding the plaque. **PW** would also arrange an indoor plaque for the Gallery Jewellers in the High Street who are in their third generation of the Fisher family. **PB** is making the drawings for the architectural plaque and he and **PW** will meet with Bill MacKay of The Lantern House to agree its location.

AF commented that the plaques in Monmouth (Civic Society jointly with Council) also include a QR code for further information on Wikipedia. Our own could have a link to the website.

8) Membership. **CB** reported that the GDPR forms had been returned and that this had been a positive exercise in that it had made us aware of the death of some members. Those not returned **CB** would try for a response one more time.

The Heritage Open Day in September could be used as a shop window to recruit members, and/or a market stall. CW would take brochures and newsletters to the Almshouses open day on 16th June.

9) 2018/2019 Programme. CW asked for suggestions for next year's programme and CB offered to help in planning.

a) Prosecco in the Cedars Hall. AF and CW to buy strawberries, cream, Prosecco and wine.

10) Civic Day. CB apologised as this had not come to fruition this year.

11) Art 360 this is progressing and volunteers were asked for on the day – **21st July**.

AOB;

- **AI'A** made the committee aware of the community event taking place in Southover on June 23rd.
- **PB** told the committee about the high-level tours of the Cathedral and reported that an application for HLF funding had gone in for the Bishop's Barn.
- **GB** said there would be a project meeting for the Reredos at St Cuthbert's on 13th June.
- **AF** reported that Colin Price was to replace John Osmond as the city council's representatives on the Museum Board of Trustees.

The meeting closed at 3.20pm

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING 14th August at 102 St Thomas Street (thank you Rosemary!)

Wells Civic Society

Minutes of meeting held on 14th August 2018 at Rosemary Evans's house.

Present – Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, John Rackham, Doug Robinson, Hilary Waters, Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

Apologies – Patrick Brown

1. **Matters Arising** – Small change to the previous minutes, 3 (c) add “as agreed by the Committee” after 13th June.
2. **Chair's Report**–
 - Heritage Day, this is being lead by Julia Wood who is anxious for help and support on Saturday 8th September. Town Hall opens at 10.00am RE, AA, HW and CB indicated that they would be available to help.
 - Worcester Visit 5th September – CW has arranged an itinerary for up to 30 members from the Worcester Civic Society, with coffee at St Cuthbert's (thanks to Graham), an opportunity to swap ideas over lunch at the Swan, a walking tour with Siobhan Goodwin, and opportunities to visit the Palace, Cathedral, Museum, market and shops. AA, AF, and CB are also available for lunch. Possible return visit to Worcester next spring.
 - Ripon Trip – see CW's report.
 - Art 360 – See CW's report. Many thanks to CB and HW for their help on the day. Very well received and need more help in 2019.
 - 2018/2019 Programme – An interesting programme with nothing booked following the AGM in January, a possibility would be the Deanery Garden.
3. **Treasurer's Report** –
 - RA expressed concerns about future costs of plaques and felt that we must have a clear understanding and strategy for the future. There are 2 more architectural plaques in the pipeline, at the Liberty and Chamberlain Street. Also, perhaps 5 blue plaques. We may be able to find a lower price; Titch Masters in Easton may be able to help. PW was asked to draw up a budget for the year beginning 1st October 2018. Money should then be put to one side assuming that the Committee are happy with the costs.
 - Fixed Interest Fund B to be closed and funds moved to National Westminster Bank.
 - Donations: these have increased in the last few years and RA is keen to have a maximum budget for the year for all donations. RA to let the committee have his recommendations in writing before a final decision is made. RA also was anxious that we kept the cash flow under control as additional costs such as Civic Voice/Trees in Palace fields etc have an impact on our funds. Our Gift Aid has been applied for.
4. **Planning** – it was reported that Councillor Danny Unwin had recently died. He was an active member of the planning committee on the City Council.
 - Old Co-op: possibility of local residents buying the freehold of this building in the High Street.
 - Budgens- Mast application has returned.
 - Park Cottage – Geoffrey Dodds apparently owns this building but nothing has happened recently re planning applications etc.
 - Cold Store – car wash application has been approved.
 - Connect Centre – changes are likely to go ahead.
 - Kings Head – still nothing happened on this site.
 - Kendrick Court – have planning consent for gates but no action as yet.
 - 19 New Street – possibility that some trees may be felled.
5. **Environment** – RE concerned that the City Council appear to have no replanting of Trees strategy.
6. **Plaques** – PW said he would approach Fisher's jewellers for an indoor plaque.

7. **Membership** – CB concerned that with new GDPR rules we may lose members who have not returned their forms. CW intends to do a follow-up mailing including the new programme to try to encourage members to respond.
8. **Any other Business**
 - Superbooks going from High Street this month.
 - Almshouses – Open Day – November 3rd. Songs, World War I poems and CB's "Wells, Our Boys".
 - Museum – committee members were encouraged to become a 'friend' for an annual sub of £7.50
9. **Date of Next Meeting** – 9th October 2018, Venue to be advised.

7th September 2018

Wells Civic Society

Minutes of meeting held on 9th October 2018

at Rosemary Evans' house.

Present - Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Doug Robinson, John Rackham, Philip Welch and Chris Winter,

Apologies - Rodney Angel, Patrick Brown, Rod Hudsmith, Adrian I'Anson & Hilary Waters

1. **Approve Minutes of the last meeting – 14th August 2018.** The minutes were agreed with a slight amendment being “£1,000 budget for 2018/19 for plaques, this was agreed by the Committee”.
2. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda.** None that will not be dealt with in these minutes.
3. **Chair's Report** - Please see attached Chair's Report. It was agreed that Gerry Cottle be approached to speak during the 2019/20 season.
4. **Treasurer's Report - CW** thanked **RA** for his schedule and pointed out that one or two figures were in the wrong column on the spreadsheet, **CW** to liaise with **RA**.

The Committee agreed that the following budget for the coming year be adopted:

- **Visit by Coach** – £500
- **Plaques** – £1,000
- **Printing** - £500
- **Art 360** - £50.
- **Civic Voice** - CW expenses for Civic Voice annual conference 2018 for travel and accommodation £186.85.
- **Wells in Bloom** - £200 plus the £25 voucher.

This budget will be reviewed annually.

The Society is currently not paying any of our speakers.

The Committee agreed that there would be a **£500 discretionary fund** for requests received during the year. Donations from this fund will be considered and agreed by the Committee at a meeting but, if necessary, due to time restrictions, approval can be obtained by e-mail.

5. **Trees & Environment** - Judges Lodging – **RE** not quite sure what is happening here, will keep an eye open and report back.
New Car wash in Palace Farm, concern that phone mast may be erected in this area, residents not happy although Trees currently provide good cover.
Mills & Waterways – report being compiled but nothing available as yet.
Old Trading Post – Delighted that this is being taken over by a Stained-Glass Company. There was talk as to why the Mill was not listed?
6. **Plaques** - Fishers, the Jewellers – indoor plaque installed 5th October.
Don the Barber is a possibility for an indoor plaque.
Blue Plaques – Cllr Celia Wride (Mayor) presented the gibbet plaque on the 23rd October. Good turnout required. Plaque is on a plinth which the builders (Mark Vears) has given free.

Possible plaque at the old Mitre Hotel in Sadler street, currently a barber's shop.
Also, at the Old Jail, the owner is prepared to pay.

Architectural Plaque - One of the current plaques has been ripped of the wall near Powell's Shoe shop, D'Ovidio will replace at we hope no cost.

The Liberty – we now have planning permission to erect a plaque. Art work has been done by Jpeg of Wells.

Chamberlain Street – it is hoped that a plaque will be erected on Pilgrim Financial Services building when planning permission has been granted.

7. **Membership** - CW & CB have been working on updating the membership list from the GDPR responses. CW agreed to send a final letter to non-respondents, including the 2018/19 programme to encourage renewal.

CB will circulate membership renewal notices for 1st October 2018.

We now have more email addresses, which helps communications with members.

8. **Programme** - We need to start to think about our AGM
Do we wish to co-opt new Committee Members?
Can we persuade more people to help rather than come on the Committee?

9. **Any Other Business** - CB drew our attention to the "Less we forget" book and **AF** is looking after the bar. GB gave his apologies for the next meeting.

10. **Date of the Next Meeting** – 13th November 2018 Venue TBC

8th November 2018

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 11th December 2018

Present: Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, John Rackham, Doug Robinson, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies:** Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman and Hilary Waters.
2. **Minutes of the Last meeting held on 13th November 2018:** not available for approval, will be circulated by email and agreed at the January 2019 Committee meeting.
3. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda:** CW and AF attended the Believe in Somerset awards lunch on 6th December; Wells in Mosaic was a finalist in the Community Project category and Wells Museum won the Contribution to Tourism category.
4. **Chair's Report** – Nothing to report not on the agenda.
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. The Charity Commission had written both to the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer concerning our failure to submit the annual report. This had been rectified by RA.
 - b. It was also pointed out that the email address on our website for the Society was incorrect. **DR** will look into this and liaise with **CW** about putting an appropriate email address on our website.
 - c. The copy of our inspected accounts for the year ending 30th September 2018 is available for the January AGM. Thanks to Marilyn Cantell for carrying out the inspection.
 - d. It was agreed that in the coming year a system which allowed online payment of subscriptions would be developed, as well as existing methods, which would also be streamlined. **DR, AIA & CW**
6. **Planning Report:**
 - a. **AIA** reported that the west of Wells development involves c200 houses of which 88 (40%) are to be affordable housing. These will not be clustered but 'peppered' throughout the site. Several aspects of the proposal are missing from the MDC planning portal which he has brought to the attention of the officers. Access, landscaping, community space and the design of the houses are unsatisfactory.
 - b. The land on Wookey Hole Road designated for a new school is contaminated (8 x the arsenic limit) which is causing a significant delay.
 - c. **AIA** agreed to investigate demolition of a wall at East Horrington.
 - d. **AIA** showed a picture of a tree growing out of the wall of the Kings Head (High Street); he will try to contact the owners to remedy this.
 - e. Several shops are closing or changing; it was noted that the planning authority (MDC) cannot determine which retailers operate from the properties.
 - f. Kendrick Court: there has been no progress regarding the unsightly planking.
 - g. A media campaign to highlight examples of good and bad practice regarding maintenance of buildings in the city (*the good, the bad and the ugly*) might reward and shame owners / occupiers.
 - h. A similar campaign to improve shopfronts might be part of an action plan for 2019, working with other organisations, eg: The Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. **CW** to progress.
7. **Environment and Trees:** **RE** had nothing to report, but it was agreed that the waterways project should be progress in 2019, possibly in partnership with the Mills group (David Mather). As resources are limited, wider participation is needed to take forward this and other projects in the coming year. Schools and young people's organisations (ATC, Venture Scouts, Army Cadets etc) might be interested in projects of this kind. The Wake Up Wells event on January 26th will offer an opportunity to raise the profile of WCS and our project and activities.¹

¹ Please put this date in your diary; we have booked a stall and as many representatives as possible would be great!

8. **Plaques: PW** is progressing the installation of the architectural (square) plaque for the Liberty. The next blue plaque is planned for the former Mitre Hotel in Sadler Street (now Minsky's); the current owners have indicated they would pay for putting up the plaque. Don the Barber will be approached in due course about an indoor plaque.
9. **Membership:** 2018/19 subscriptions are being received by standing order, cash and cheques. It is too early to determine the impact of the new level of fees.
10. **Annual General Meeting 9th January 2019:** In order to prepare the Annual Report, CW asked for contributions from committee members. A short summary of achievements in each area of work for 2018 would be helpful.² She also thanked DR for the improvements to the website; the report would be an opportunity to promote this and other projects and actions planned for 2019, and encourage more involvement by members.

Considering the difficulties in preparing for the AGM over the Christmas period, changing this to November was discussed. This would bring it more into line with the end of year (30th September) and subscription renewal (1st October). This proposal could be put to the AGM.

11. **Any Other Business**

- a. Pedestrian priority in the High Street on market days (Wednesdays and Saturdays) was discussed. This could be addressed in the coming year with the Chamber of Commerce and others.
- b. Boots the Chemist has an excellent leaflet on dementia; RE suggested it might be made available more widely in shops and service providers, although retail chains are more difficult to approach on **local** matters than the independent shops. PW gave an update on the project to make Wells a Dementia Friendly City. 1300 people have been trained so far as dementia friends.
- c. Parking is a continuing issue and it was agreed that WCS should cooperate with other organisations working on this.

11th December 2018

² By Friday 21st December please

2017 minutes

Wells Civic Society
Charity Commission No. 208574

Committee Minutes 10th January 2017

Present - Chris Winter, Philip Welch, Adrian l'Anson, Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, Graham Barrow, Rosemary Evans & John Rackham.

1. **Apologies** - Patrick Brown, Rodney Angel, Rod Hudsmith & Andrew Fawcett.
2. **Approve Minutes of the last meeting on 13th December 2016** - One small change, 4(g) **AA** to replace **GB**, minutes were then agreed and signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda** – None.
4. **Officer's Reports:**
 - a) **Chair** - nothing to add to the Annual Report for the AGM
 - b) **Treasurer - RA** has devised a better layout for future months which makes our financial position clearer.
 - c) **Membership** - CB mentioned approx. 6 members that have still to pay their subscription, she asked if any of us could help with collection. Still 180 members, this figure included 6 already mentioned and also our Corporate Members. We are now collecting those who pay annually in January.
 - d) **Plaques - Outside Plaques** – W.G.Grace: Mendip DC is happy for plaque to be erected, likely at the end of March. Also exploring a Judge Jefferies plaque above the existing one in the Market Place on the Barclays Bank building. Mendip DC yet to be approached. Plaque to commemorate September 1685, those who were hanged and others transported. John Jefferies (Ash Lane) will write an article about the incident.

Another plaque is being considered at Keward on a grass site between the stream and the Glastonbury road. This will commemorate a Gibbet where men and women were burnt at the stake, the women were strangled prior to being burnt but the men were not so lucky, they were alive when burnt. The local houses are on "Gallows Close" and an adjacent field is called Burnt Stakes field. Can we manage to include a copy of a 16th Century map on the plaque or nearby? John Jefferies has a copy of the map.

PW has visited the new owner of The Rib next to the cathedral; he asked whether they would be happy to have a plaque showing Elizabeth Goudge once lived here. They will come back to **PW** in due course.
 - Indoor Plaques** – **PW** approached Julia Romeo about a plaque at Earthcraft, she felt that Thatchers' should receive one before her shop. **PW** will contact Thatchers'.
 - e) **Environment** - nothing to report.
 - f) **Trees** - nothing to report.
 - g) **Planning** - Telephone aerial near Budgens: the application has been withdrawn. Well done to those that protested, particularly Debra Pottinger.

Norman Kennedy, the City Planning Chairman, has asked the Civic Society for more support with planning applications.

h) Neighbourhood Plan - Something positive may be occurring!!! The existing Steering Group has been 'discontinued'. The City Council is to take full responsibility for delivering the Plan. Tony Robbins, Colin Price, John Osman and Harvey Siggs are the new Steering Group taking the Neighbourhood Plan forward.

Judith Ludovino has resigned from the Council. This creates the possibility of a new councillor being elected or co-opted. If there is no election (which is very doubtful) Simon Lawder, Adrian l'Anson and Philip Welch have put their names forward for cooption as Wells Independent councillors.

i) Kendrick Court - Dave Woodridge (Mendip DC) has agreed to follow up this issue; **AA** will get in touch and find out what progress is being made.

5. Website

No further progress yet. **RC** suggested that we ensure that the plaque that Norman Kennedy presented to the Society some years ago should be shown on our website with appropriate text.

6. 2017 AGM

CB volunteered to minute the meeting in **JR**'s absence. **JR** has received a note from Brian Norris about the accounts; **JR** to send this to **RA** immediately so that **CW** can answer the question should Brian raise it tomorrow.

6. Talk on Wednesday 11th January 2017

Two laptops will be available if required. **AF** will look after the Bar. Wine is self funding. Richard Hanks' report of the December meeting will not appear in the Journal until 12th January edition which is unfortunate, but the new editor Tim Lethaby has agreed to print future reports.

7. Any other Business:

- i. Wells Journal archives have been sent to Watford, so that they can be digitalised, when or if they are likely to return is unknown. Meeting felt that we should write to the paper and express our concern that the people of Wells should have access to these archives. It was thought that we should liaise with Andy Webb before we take any action. PW to consider discussing with James Heapey on GFM Radio show this Thursday. Wells City Council should be encouraged also to appeal for a return of the archive material.
- ii. Wells Soup at Seager Hall this Saturday Jan 14th at 1pm.
- iii. Dog walkers are concerned with a rumour that the Cathedral School may be buying some land from the Council at Tor Furlong for a car park. **AA** volunteered to approach the Council to determine the validity of the rumour.
- iv. **AA** wishes to interview a neighbour at 34 Southover, Trevor Willis was born in the house and has lived there all his life; this will be an oral history exercise, the recording kit he hopes to borrow from Julia Wood, the City Archivist.

- v. **CW** attended a meeting with Debra Lamb, Deputy CEO and other representatives of Historic England, with other members of the Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns on 9th Jan. Interesting times ahead, **CW** to keep us briefed.
- vi. Pickwicks are thinking about a payment to use their facilities as we are not buying enough coffee etc. **CW** to approach Pickwicks to negotiate. Meeting felt this was our first choice, alternative being moving round various committee members' houses.

9. Next Meeting - 7th February 2017 at Pickwicks (unless we hear to the contrary).

10th January 2017.

Wells Civic Society
Charity Commission No.208574

Committee Minutes 7th February 2017

Present: Patrick Brown, Hilary Waters, Andrew Fawcett, Rodney Angel, Chris Winter, Rosemary Evans, Philip Welch, Clare Blackmore. Roger Cookman, Graham Barrow & Ray Bennett.

1. **Apologies:** Adrian l'Anson, Rod Hudsmith, John Rackham
2. **The minutes of the last meeting** were approved and signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters Arising.** None
4. **Minutes of the AGM (11/01/17):** there were no matters arising.
5. **Officers' Reports**
 - a. **Chair's Report:** CW welcomed Hilary Waters as a new co-opted member to the committee. Committee officers were re-elected for another year.
 - CW and PB thought that Cedars Hall should be nominated for a Civic Voice Design Award. Peter Knell (Wells Cathedral School Bursar) very keen and nationally the South West is often left out so nomination may be welcomed.
 - **Renewal of Civic Voice Membership.** This was agreed to as it does raise the profile of Wells nationally. RA suggested that the Civic Voice newsletter could do a piece on Wells. CW to progress this.
 - CW told committee that James Heapey had been invited to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies but had not taken offer up.
 - **Historic Buildings Conservation Project Fund.** CW asked for ideas to apply to this small fund to mark 50 years of conservation.
CB suggested an art event on Cathedral Green where anyone who wanted to could come along and paint/draw the Cathedral and the Civic Society put up a plaque. CB to explore idea with Cathedral. GB said new Dean may be keen on an event like this.
 - b. **Membership Secretary:** Membership steady and subscription reminders sent out.
 - c. **Plaques:** PW reported that Barclay's Bank had agreed to a plaque for Bloody Assizes and Judge Jefferies. It was unanimously decided that the plaque on the Rib should be consistent with other Civic Society plaques. The WG Grace plaque would be unveiled in late March. CB to liaise with Gloucester County Cricket Club re someone to unveil it.
 - d. **Treasurer's Report:** RA reported that Marilyn Cattell (Examiner) had changed the way the end of year accounts were formatted and that he was more comfortable with her way of recording assets. RA asked whether he should be able to pay speakers up to £25 without committee approval, but as this is a rare occurrence it was not deemed necessary. RA said that as regards the reserves we need to be able to say (to the Charities Commission) that we have a project in mind and it was agreed that this would be the Wells in Mosaic and the plaques.
 - e. **Environment and Trees:** RE reported that the Boyne trees were in a very sorry and sad state and were not flourishing at all. It was agreed to arrange a site meeting with James Cross.

- f. **Planning:** Kendrick Court: CW said she had been copied into an email from David Woodbridge at Mendip DC and the problem was not forgotten but not a priority, and no action has been taken so far.

The mobile phone mast is not to be erected at Budgens and an alternative site is being sought.

Neighbourhood Plan: PW reported that he had no news from the City Council re progress.

6. **AOB:**

- GB raised the issue of the mud at the play area in the Rec. CW said that it was to be resurfaced as part of the reconstruction.
- AF reported that he had been co-opted to the Almshouse Trust; a new CEO was effecting some changes and might be considered for an evening talk next season.

7. **Date of next meeting;** Tuesday 7th March 2pm at Pickwicks.

Wells Civic Society

Committee Minutes 7th March 2017

Present: Patrick Brown, Andrew Fawcett, Rosemary Evans, Philip Welch, Chris Winter, Clare Blackmore, John Rackham, Adrian l'Anson

1. **Apologies** – Ray Bennett, Rodney Angel, Hilary Waters, Roger Cookman, Graham Barrow & Rod Hudsmith.
2. **The Minutes of the Last Meeting** - were approved and signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters Arising** - Nothing that will not be discussed.

4. **Chair's Report:**

Art 360 – An Art fest on the Cathedral Green being organised by **CB** and **HW**, new Dean is giving strong support. Paint whatever you see, children to also participate. Local Artists also involved, open to anyone. Mark Tobin at the Swan wold eb asked to help with refreshments and Cllr Colin Pric had expressed an interest regarding the exhibition. **Date 26th August.** Society to present an Award. The Armadine Gallery to be asked to consider supplying paint etc and plan for the best pictures to be displayed in an exhibition on the Town Hall. A funding application (approx £150.00) has been made for this project from IHBC Anniversary funding.

Cedars Hall - nominated the Hall for the 2017 Civic Voice Design Awards, thanks to **PB** and Peter Knell from the Cathedral School for their help and support.

W.G.Grace - New plaque at the Recreation Ground to be unveiled by Rex Body (Chairman of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club) on 14th March. The Committee authorised lunch and coffee for the guests to be paid for from society funds.

Alan Stone - the Committee authorised payment of £25.00 for expenses for his talk last November.

5. **Membership Report** - No comment this month. We did agree that there was no point in chasing Mrs Green, Brian Fulwell and Megan Wright for their subscriptions. **AA** to contact Richard Lewis and Cath Bairstow and ask them to remain members.
6. **Treasurer's Report** - No schedules from **RA** this month.
7. **Environment Report** - Nothing to report this month.
8. **Plaque Report** - Plaque on the Barclays Bank building in the Market Place is proceeding; possible new site for the Gallows at Keward; looking into one on the Rib;
Also looking into an Indoor plaque for at Earth Craft owned by Julie Romeo.
Large plaques on the Liberty, Chamberlain Street and St Thomas Street are also being considered; however the location is still in question.
9. **Trees** - The Sequoias are still struggling, **RE** obtain new stakes from Rocky Mountain and will arrange to fix them with her new helper Colin Westley (aged 87). **RE** to let Society know the cost in due course. Committee agreed to reimburse when appropriate. Willows near Tincknells have been pollarded, slight concern re Lime Trees in Old Vicarage and Tor Street?
10. **Planning - Tor Hill Quarry** - Vodaphone placing their mast on the Quarry site. **RE** thanked the owner Stephen ...??..

Tor Furlong - Not quite sure what is happening here, **CW** said she would speak to Peter Knell at the Cathedral School and report next month.

Palace Fields: AIA to seek clarification of any planning proposals on this site.

CW wished to thank **RH** for his notes and appreciates his contributions to the Society's discussions.

The Committee felt that **CW's** reply was most appropriate albeit the Society has limited influence in view of national planning policy, the MDC Local Plan and the power of national developers.

Kendrick Court: AIA will pursue via Wells Journal and MDC.

Full Moon: AIA reported that an enforcement order re decking had been served but there was an appeal.

Empty Shops in the High Street, particularly the old dry cleaners shop next to M & Co, which is owned by the company and had plans for a store extension. It was suggested that the empty window be used to display schools' art. AIA to pursue.

11. **Local Listing-** Nothing has happened on this subject for at least 18 months; Mendip has all the Society's recommendations together with John Winstone's. PB will try to check how other local towns have progressed. CW also thought it would be worth asking Civic Voice how the Country is progressing with this subject.
12. **Wells Weekly Diary – RE** felt that with Wells having so many different groups and societies operating it would be a bonus for the population to have details of meetings, lectures, events etc in public spaces that are easily available to us all. There was the concern as to who would be in control of such a publication, how would it be kept up to date and where should it reside. Waitrose was mentioned as were Morrisons and the various public noticeboards that already exist. Apparently our own Lectures are not displayed on any Public noticeboard. The Wells Journal has a "what's on" page as does the Mendip Times. AF volunteered to check City noticeboards and see what is currently displayed. To discuss further.
13. **Any Other Business -**
 - i. **Recreation Trust** – the refurbished playground will be opened at the end of the month; there will be a soft opening and a grander opening at a later date. The new Chairman of the Trust is Cllr John Parham.
 - ii. **Wells in Mosaic** - Tony Robbins will be the Member of the City Council who will liaise with the WiM team.
 - iii. **Bishop's Barn** - Nothing yet developing at the Barn but the Society are in the "loop".
 - iv. **Society's Website** - this is still going through the development stage, unfortunately our 2015/2016 programme is still on our site. **CW** gave us all details of how we could see the new site and asked for comments and content.
 - v. **ASHTAV** membership is due for renewal; agreed to defer.
 - vi. **International Women's Day** - Sunday 12th March – Activities between 11.30am and 4.00pm in the Town Hall.
 - vii. **Almshouses** - **JR** had received a letter from the Charity asking for support and friendship, **CW** to take further. **AF** has become a trustee of the Almshouses and explain they were re-branding and have a new team led by Althea Howarth (CEO), Sarah Villiers and Robin Thorns. **CW** to report back next month.
 - viii. **Kebab Shop** - It was pointed out that their shop sign was not necessarily in keeping with what Wells might wish to portray; AIA pointed out that it had planning permission.
 - ix. **Neighbourhood Plan** - PW suggested that it was important that we contact Tony Robbins (City Council) before our May committee meeting to find out what developments have been made with the Neighbourhood Plan.
14. **Date of the Next Meeting** - Pickwicks, 11th April 2017.

19th February 2017.

Wells Civic Society

April 2017 Committee Minutes

Present – Patrick Brown, Hilary Waters, Andrew Fawcett, Chris Winter, Rosemary Evans, Clare Blackmore, Philip Welch, Roger Cookman, John Rackham, Adrian l'Anson & Graham Barrow.

1. **Apologies** - Ray Bennett & Rod Hudsmith.
2. **The Minutes of the last Meeting** - were approved and signed as a correct copy.
3. **Matters Arising** - Membership – Richard Lewis has rejoined. Ian Bowen at Mendip is involved with the Local Listing. Neighbourhood Plan – the Council are meant to be dealing with this as we were dismissed in December 2016. A new member of their subcommittee is Celia Wride. Further news may be available at the Council Planning Meeting on 20th April 2017.
4. **Treasurers Report** - Our Annual Insurance is now due, the premium is £150 with a charge from the Broker of a further £50 which was considered unreasonable by the Committee. We asked Higos to give us a quote which was £124, cover is broadly the same. Insurer to remain the same this year but to be reviewed more fully in 2018. Committee gave permission for only 3 Committee Members to sanction a move if all were in agreement. Suggest that this be an item for January 2018 Agenda.
5. **Membership Report** - We managed to increase our membership by a further 3 people who attended the March lecture.
6. **Chair's Report** - Chris gave us up to date information on our bid to become the 2021 City of Culture. Chris was also hoping that whether we win or not that some of the ideas that have been suggested still continue to go ahead, the Committee were fully supportive. Chris particularly mentioned that the team constructing the Bid are all volunteers which is most unusual as these bids are generally controlled by the appropriate District, County or City Council. Special praise to Andy Webb who is leading our bid.
7. **Plaques** - Elizabeth Goudge, we hope to have a plaque on the Tower House followed by one on the Rib.
Excellent publicity followed the W.G.Grace plaque, well done everybody involved. What about Browns Garden centre for a plaque, John Brown has for many years helped various schools and the City, the Committee were all in favour of approaching them. There was also discussion about the location of the Gallows down Glastonbury Road, apparently David Mather, a local Historian, who lives at Bishop's Brook feels that the Ogdens map places them a 5 Ham Clos PW to approach the owners.
There was concern about our Older plaques, some are distinctly dirty and need a clean, Clare and Hilary kindly offered to sort the problem. We would welcome their views on how often a cleaning process should take place and by whom?
8. **Environment** - **RE** reports that the Rib are keen to cut some trees back and are considering removing a few. There is also a tree that is likely to come down where the Cathedral School are currently building in New Street. The Council are also keeping an eye on a Sequoia near the moat. **RE** reports no cost for the stakes that were used in the Palace fields.
9. **Planning** - Palace Farm – Phelps farm may be moved south and new houses erected on the site of the old farm buildings. A new pavement is being built in Milton Road, the Blue School side. Bovis have recently said that they now wish to build 203 houses rather than the 160 that was originally proposed.
10. **Local Listing** - no comments this month.
11. **James Heappey** - all organised for tomorrow's meeting, please be early and let's hope that we don't have a problem with numbers.
12. **Any Other Business** - Summer Soiree 14th June in the Museum Gardens and the Upstairs Room. Birmingham City Council – could we produce a similar booklet, apparently Robin Thorns at the Museum may have something similar.
ART 360 - We are looking for Judges, How about Richard Coles? Hoping Chris Lee may be able to help.
Website - Please look at it and let **JR** have any thoughts whether positive or negative!!
E-mails for Members, on a recent e-mail exercise 17 of our Members appear to have the wrong address, can we try and update these on the arrival desk each month!!
13. Date of the next Meeting - Pickwicks, 2.00pm 13th June 2017

Wells Civic Society

9th May 2017 Committee Minutes

Present – Adrian l’Anson, Patrick Brown, Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, Graham Barrow, Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies** – Rodney Angel, Ray Bennett, Rosemary Evans, Rod Hudsmith & Hilary Waters.
2. **The Minutes of the last meeting** – due to timings etc the minutes needed 4 small amendments, as these were yet to be changed it was agreed that the minutes would be signed at the next meeting.
3. **Matters Arising** – there were no comments.
4. **Treasurers Report** – no comments this month.
5. **Membership Report** -no change this month.
6. **Plaques Report**
 - Planning permission has been granted to put a plaque at the Rib, the owners will be absent till September whilst renovations are being carried out, so it was thought that October would be a good month to erect the plaque. We may be able to attend a small ceremony inside at the unveiling, don’t forget to invite Michael Cansdale.
 - Barclays Bank – still not heard anything, hope that we can erect in June/July.
 - The Society received a very nice ‘thank you’ card from Julie Romeo of EarthCraft for her indoor plaque.
 - Plaque to mark the location of the Gallows – have not managed to meet the owners of 5 Hann Close – it is hoped that Ian Jefferies or David Mather may be able to help. PW to progress.
 - PW suggested Brown’s Garden Centre for the next indoor plaque, but all agreed that there should be suitable intervals between the awards.
7. **Environment Report** – no comments this month. Nothing to add about trees.
8. **Planning Report**
 - a great deal of concern has been voiced that the new shop in the High Street, The Works, was not abiding with the agreed Mendip DC shopfront and Conservation Area policies and there was also concern about the number of yellow bins outside the shop on the pavement. MDC is dealing with this and AIA is monitoring progress.
 - Our **website** was mentioned, especially the lack of up to date information. **AIA** said he would contact Doug Robinson from the Museum who was helping to renew our site.
 - Kendrick Court: a Section 125 Order has been served by MDC but still no action. **AIA** to try and obtain some change via Mendip.
 - Possible progress at M&Co, AIA has sent a recent picture of the shop they own next door to their store in the High Street, with a letter sent to Charles Parkin, who responded that the expansion project has ‘stalled’.
9. **Local Listings** – no comments this month.
10. **Chair’s Report:**
 - **City of Culture** – our bid has gone in on time. General Election is likely to delay all the announcements, so timescales are unlikely to be met.
 - **Civic Day 17th June** – **PB** very kindly volunteered to do a City Walk to celebrate this day. **PB** to consult with **CW**.
 - **Art360:** The date will be 26th August. CW & CB met with the Dean (who has given his full support) and will also meet with Cathedral Education and Outreach officer on 16th May, which will bring more support and publicity. If the day is wet we will have to cancel as we can’t use the Cathedral.

Alan Stratford of the A2 Gallery is giving support with the logo, leaflets and posters. Possible judges are Prebendary Jepson-Biddle, Ruth Ames-White (Wells in Mosaic), Chris Lee (local artist), Allan Stratford and the Bishop.

We did not obtain funding from IHBC in the first round, but there may be a chance if further funding becomes available.

The Armandine Gallery will be asked to help with art supplies for the children; adults to bring their own. The Committee agreed £100 may be used if deemed necessary.

- **Newsletter/Brochure/Next year's Programme** – CW & CB are working on the programme of talks for 2017/18, to be published with the next newsletter; a brochure will also be produced that will last a few years expressing our aims/achievements and which will also help to improve our image /branding. Richard Thorns (from the museum) may be able to help us pull everything together and create a finished article (AF to contact). Chris Lee, a local artist may also be able to help with sketches etc. The Committee felt that we could spend up to £500 on printed materials that will help to raise our profile and increase our membership.
 - **Summer Social event June 14th** – we hope that we may be able to provide music in the garden of the Museum and AF is arranging for tours of the exhibitions. Pimms and strawberries was a must. Music was suggested with several possibilities: Poppy Magee a violinist, Cathy Judge and the Cathedral School Jazz Band. CW to investigate.
- 11. Next evening event:** Speakers - Julia Wood & Jerry Sampson - All in order; Julia will be bringing her own sound system.
 - 12. Any other Business** – There was no other business.
 - 13. Next meeting** - 2.00pm 13th June 2017

16th May 2017

MINUTES OF WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY MEETING
TUESDAY JUNE 7TH 2.00PM AT PICKWICK'S CAFÉ

Present: Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson & Chris Winter.

Apologies: Ray Bennett, Roger Cookman, Rod Hudsmith, John Rackham & Philip Welch.

Matters Arising: None

Minutes of last meeting signed as a correct record.

1. Shaun Plenty Waterways Report.

Shaun reported his findings on the Wells Waterways Survey.

1. The stream by Lidl's and to the back of Tincknell's is not in a very good state.
2. Generally the water quality of the streams is good and the wildlife healthy but there are areas where visually it could be improved.
3. There were no obvious pollution issues.
4. The development on Bishop's Brook had done a very good job on the stream and it would now be left to naturalise.
5. Chris Winter said that now we have the evidence recorded a future plan could be developed to include other agencies to improve and maintain the waterway. CW suggested the acronym W.E.T. Waterways Enhancement Team.
6. Adrian suggested that now we have the report we tell the City Council and Mendip as the information needs to be shared for the benefit of the city.
7. Shaun was happy to make it a public document and suggested we could have public information and habitat boards.
8. We now need to move forward and have a look at the report and let Chris have any feedback asap so that it can be moved on.

2. Treasurers Report / Budget

1. Rodney reported that he has applied for the Gift Aid for 2013/2104 and that the application for 2015 has two years before it need to be applied for. Rodney said he had only claimed where he was 100% clear that Gift Aid was indicated.
2. Donations should be made where possible from cash flow and not assets.
3. CW said that operating costs were more or less predictable and that outgoings approximately matched incomings.
4. RA said the Scottish Widows account had not been used in three years.
5. There was a discussion with regards to the Harry Parkes bequest. All felt that some of it should be spent on relevant projects; all present agreed that this might include up to 20% of the cost of the *Wells in Mosaic* project, but this ought to be put to the members after Ruth Ames-White's talk in the autumn.
Patrick thought that Harry Parkes would be delighted with such a project and that it encompasses the remit of the bequest and of the Civic Society constitution.
6. It was also agreed to publish Shaun's report.
7. All agreed to continue to pay Chris's expenses for her good work with Civic Voice / Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns.

3. Tourism Management

1. CW reported on the present proposal to appoint a coach management company for Wells which was being led by Andy Webb.
- 2 The contract (£7,500 pa) has to be funded and it has been suggested that interested parties donate £500 each initially which would cover 10 hours a week for the year.
3. The consensus of the committee was that this was a good idea and much needed for Wells and again within the Civic Society's remit of promoting the city and its heritage.

4. It was agreed to contribute £500, with the proviso that there would be a review at the end of a specified period, before committing for a further year.

4. Local Listing

1. Chris wanted to thank Patrick and Adrian for their work on this.
2. This should be coordinated by Jane Boldy, of Mendip District Council, who would be asked to help to establish criteria for inclusion on the List.
3. Patrick, Adrian and Chris suggested that the next step should be a meeting with Jane as the Listing should be backed by Mendip to give it credibility and that the criteria are the same for other towns in the area.
4. CW to set up a meeting.

5. Programme

1. CW reported that this was now complete for next year; it was agreed that a summer visit to the Palace Gardens would be better than to Stoberry Gardens due to ease of access for members.

6. Plaques

1. Philip was taking forward both the outdoor and indoor plaques. One suggestion for an indoor plaque was Julie Romeo at Earthcraft who has been in business for over 30 years.

7. Membership

1. Clare reported two new members this week, two more potential members to attend evening at the Deanery Gardens and two more asked for application forms at the Swan Hotel evening function.

8. Trees

1. Rosemary reported that one of the Sequoia trees was looking very poorly. She had talked to James Cross (Bishop's Palace gardener) but thinks we need to wait and see if it picks up.

9. Planning

1. Graham reported that Beah has applied to develop their upstairs space into two flats. No objection.

10. A.O.B. Chris asked for contributions to the newsletter by 21st June please.

11. Date of Next Meeting: 9th August 2pm at Pickwick's

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

**WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8TH AUGUST AT PICKWICKS.**

Present: Chris Winter, Clare Blackmore, Philip Welch, Adrian l'Anson, Rosemary Evans, Roger Cookman.

1. **Apologies:** Rod Hudsmith, Andrew Fawcett, Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Hilary Waters, Patrick Brown, John Rackham.
2. **The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a correct record.**
3. **Matters Arising.** None
4. **Summer Update.**
 - a) **Art 360 – 28th August 1-4pm.** Chris, Hilary and Clare have met with the Cathedral. Risk Assessment done, tables and chairs sourced, flyers printed, art materials for children organised, Adrian and Chris to put A3 and A4 posters up on the day.
 - b) **Patrick's Civic Day** tour very successful. Many thanks to Patrick for his time and expertise. It was suggested that he might repeat the tour, as it was oversubscribed, or do a Tour#2.
 - c) **Wells Mosaic.** We have had confirmation of a location in the Recreation Ground but precise point not yet fixed.
5. **Plaques.** Philip reported the theft and return of the WG Grace plaque which has now been re attached to the wall. The Barclay's Bank plaque is up and Browne's Garden Centre has been presented with an indoor plaque. Next to be set up are the plaque on Gallows Field, Emma Marshall and The Rib.
Philip will consider an indoor plaque for Paul's in St Cuthbert Street and possibly Don the Barber.
The committee agreed to pay MDC £50 for a pre-planning application for the plaque on the corner of Jocelyn Drive and Glastonbury Road.
6. **City of Culture and Visit by Coach.** Wells was not shortlisted but the exercise has been positive and the city will continue to work with the DCMS.
Visit by Coach. The Civic Society had invested £500 in the plan to manage the coach- based tourism situation in the city and there will be a presentation soon by the consultant Ian Jeffries. Improvements to the bus station and gradual reduction of the use of the Sadler Street drop off point, and Meet & Greet volunteers are part of the project. The committee will be asked to fund the second year of the project, following a report and update presentation.
7. **Civic Voice Design Award for Cedars Hall.** Chris has presented the award to Bill Lloyd and it was gratefully received, and was covered by local media.
8. **Heritage Open Day.** Civic Society will display some more of the Millennium photos again alongside Ruth Ames-White and the Wells in Mosaic plans. Many new members gained at this event in previous years and so committee members are asked to attend and help if possible. 9th September.
9. **Food Festival.** The Civic Society will take part in this event to encourage new membership. Again, volunteers needed throughout the day on 8th October.
10. **Planning.** Adrian reported that **Kendrick Court** have applied for permission to put a gateway where the planks are.

a) **Palace Farm.** Chris and Adrian met with Matthew Scott of Strutt and Parker and John Weir of the Church Commissioners. The site is scheduled for housing and development and the Civic Society will keep an eye on plans.

b) **The Old Deanery:** news of the sale has caused consternation; Andy Webb hopes to coordinate local people to ensure the building is not lost to the community.

11. **New Website.** This, thanks to Adrian and Doug, is looking much better. The committee agreed unanimously to pay £205.50 for the setting up of the site.

12. Rosemary reported that the new Sequoia trees are showing signs of growth.

13. **AOB.** None

Date of next meeting. Tuesday 12th September 2017 2.30pm Pickwicks.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm

Page 1 of 1 Signed by the
chair _____

2016 minutes

Wells Civic Society Committee Meeting Pickwicks, Tuesday 12th January 2016

Present – Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, John Rackham, Philip Welch & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies** – Ray Bennett & Rod Hudsmith
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting** – these were approved and signed.
3. **Matters Arising** – there were none.
4. **Tomorrow's AGM** – **CW** was anxious to ensure that everything was in order for the AGM. The Accounts were available and were handed out, **RA** agreed to make sure that he was able to answer any questions.
Rosemary Evans approached **CW** about joining the Committee to help with the vacant Tree position, **CB** to propose and **JR** to second.
All current Committee Members are available for election, **CW** to ask for a proposer and seconder from the Members. **AF** needs proposing **CB** to oblige, seconder **JR**.
2015 AGM minutes – CW to print 20 copies as they were not circulated with 2016 AGM agenda and reports.
Also need to have Marilyn Cattell proposed and seconded as our inspector of accounts. Item 11 on AGM Agenda.
5. **Treasurers Report** –2013 Gift Aid needs to be completed by this April, **RA** to also deal with 2014 and 2015 shortly after submitting 2013 details. RA also pointed out that our new inspector mentioned that we had more reserves than the Charity Commission would generally feel was acceptable. This is appreciated and various projects are being discussed for which funds would be needed, possibly to 'match fund' HLF applications.
6. **Plaques Report** – a plaque to acknowledge Bert Phillips (photographer) to go on the Crown, where his house was previously located, with Adrian Lawrence's agreement. A plaque at the Swan also agreed but yet to find out whether acrylic or metal. The Swan has agreed to pay costs and metal is more expensive; MDC also need to agree the material used.
The next indoor plaque will be at the Wells Film Centre. Peter Douglas (used to be Moxoms) and Jewellers/The Gallery were also mentioned as likely candidates.
The Mosaic: the necessary software has been acquired and there is a meeting next week to progress the project. The Church Commissioners have sent a letter asking for numerous things but not suggesting they may contribute towards the mosaic.
7. **Membership Report** - Six members have not responded to letters, **CB**, with Virginia Nasmyth tomorrow evening to try and find out from neighbours whether they are likely to rejoin. It was also thought we may be able to contact them by telephone.
8. **Co-op Site** – **AF** reported scaffolding at the back of the building and asked whether there had been any progress with a sale. RC confirmed that he had not received an acknowledgement from the managing agents following his letter with arcade details. He has written again and enclosed photographs following a visit to Northampton where the Co-op building has been converted into an arcade. Can we do anything? It was felt we had little leverage and even Mendip DC these days no longer have a team trying to encourage businesses to set up in Wells.
9. **Bishops Barn** – meetings have been cancelled and little progress has been made recently.

10. **Neighbourhood Plan** - there is an impasse about the Housing Needs Survey; the City Council is reluctant to initiate such a survey which means that without it the Plan is unlikely to progress. **PW**, **AIA** and **GB** were warmly thanked for their hard work and diligence in difficult circumstances. Council only has 2 Councillors on the committee, another 2 are required. It was felt that the Local Plan Part 2 had covered some of the original Plan proposals.
11. **Planning Report** – **AIA** attended a meeting where the Bishops Brook site was discussed. Another 150 new houses off Glastonbury Road. Contractor is Crest, 60 affordable. Split of units, 1bed 7%, 2bed 27%, 3bed 50%, 4 bed 13% and 5 bed 7%. **AIA** to also look at RC comment when considering suitability of what has been proposed.
New Street - Dentist's sign, not bad but **AIA** to check that MDC gave permission.
Sadler Street – Wood Panels, **PW** meeting Carter Jonas next week.
GB wrote to MDC giving the Society's agreement to the Premier Inn planning proposal.
12. **Chair's Report** – **CW** has received an e-mail from Rosemary Evans about the playground off Tor Lane. As a gate is now in place parents cannot drive to the playground. **CW** will put Rosemary in touch with the Better Play Areas for Wells group who it was felt were in a better position to answer Rosemary's queries.

HCCA – **CW** is attending this group's meetings which are totally geared to Civic Societies with particular reference to Cathedral cities. An *All Party Parliamentary Group* has been set up to support Civic Societies. Both groups are keen to ensure that housing growth in these cities is dealt with sympathetically. Historic England has produced a study which it is hoped will prove useful. (**CW**, can we get a copy?) All parties are keen to ensure that Cathedrals representatives are involved in any deliberations. **CW** meeting with Arch Deacon, Nicola Sullivan, to discuss dissemination of information to representatives at all Cathedrals.

AIA reported that three new Lay Canons were being appointed to the Chapter today at Wells.

13. **Any other Business:**

- A box of chocolates has been given to the accounts inspector as a 'thank you'.
- 13th July – Bridgewater Civic Society to visit Bishop's Palace, also look at whether they would like to visit the museum; we may be able to provide some hospitality. **JR** co-ordinating.
- **PW** suggested Alan Stone a cider expert as a speaker next year.
- **AIA** not available for next meeting.

14. **Next Meeting** – 9th February 2016 at 2.00pm, venue Pickwicks.

JR / 12th January 2016

Wells Civic Society Committee Minutes

Pickwicks, 9th February 2016

Present –Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham, Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

CW warmly welcomed Rosemary Evans and hopes that she will enjoy her time on the Committee; and Andrew who was formerly co-opted but is now an elected member.

1. Apologies – Rodney Angel, Adrian I’Anson & Rod Hudsmith

2. Minutes of the last Meeting – these were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

- i. Bishop’s Barn, no real progress, MDC feel that current plans lack ambition and are asking new Consultants for their opinion.
- ii. Dentists in New Street, **AA** was going to check that appropriate permission had been granted, no further forward although **GB** felt that they were probably acceptable.
- iii. Historic England report is available from the website shown in **CW**’s February report.

4. Chair’s Report

- **CW** has a plaque that was given to the Society some years ago by the City Council; this will be displayed at evening meetings when possible.
- **CW** mentioned that our Inspector had mentioned that the Charity Commission is uncomfortable with Charities holding large financial reserves.
- **CW** invited others to attend the meeting of MPs and Civic Society members in London on the 8th March, organised by Civic Voice.
- Historic England Study¹: **CW** has a copy and will bring to lectures and she advises that City Council could benefit from reading it. **GB** and **AA** to look at it and if possible draw it to the attention of the City Council.
- Committee sanction payment of travel costs to **CW** for her Civic Voice formal meetings.
- City & Tourism Forum- meeting 10th Feb, **CW** keen to attend and promote Andy Webb’s well researched proposals.

5. Treasurers Report –Membership Subscriptions are approx £200 lower this year than last year. Urgently need new members, approach friends; we should not rely on our reserves.

6. Membership Report – still a few people that are proving difficult to contact, **CB** likely cease any follow up shortly.

¹ <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainable-growth-of-cathedral-cities-and-historic-towns/sustainable-growth-cathedral-cities-historic-towns.pdf>

CB will be running an Easter workshop for children at the Museum themed around the Swan. To involve approx 20 children, painting, poetry, collage workshops working with the Bishop's Palace, Swan Hotel and the Museum. Society agreed to donate £100 towards this venture which will be on 30th March 1pm to 4pm. It is hoped that further workshops will take place if this one is successful.

7. Plaques Report

- **PW** thanked **PB** for his assistance with the drawing for the planning application. He also wished to thank Helen Phillips of Carlisle Jessop; it was suggested that she be invited to the unveiling ceremony and thanked by **CW** by letter.
- The Edgar Wright plaque was handed round at the meeting and all approved the blue acrylic plaque.
- Mosiac – **PW** reports there is likely to be a meeting shortly with the Artist, the Bishop, Rosie Martin of the Bishop's Palace and the Church Commissioners.

8. **Environment Report** – there was nothing further to add since the written Report.

9. **Trees** – **RE** has tried to approach James Cross of the Bishop's Palace regarding the welfare of the Boyne Memorial trees. **CW** agreed to provide **RE** with James's e-mail address. **RE** is concerned that the right hand tree is struggling.

10. Planning

- MDC to give their decision on the new Hotel (Premier Inn) on 17th Feb.
- Neighbourhood Plan – at a meeting last week the Housing Needs Survey was once again a major talking point with the Planning Committee ending up deferring the decision to the Full Council to decide one way or another. Norman Kennedy worked extremely hard to persuade his fellow councillors to go for the Survey. Norman asked **GB** to speak at the meeting. Our Committee gave **GB** discretion to indicate that the Society will pull out of the Plan if the Council refuse to go ahead with the Housing Needs Survey.
- Kendrick Court – **PW** has recently approached Carter Jonas (Managing Agents) without success. It is suggested that Society write (**CW**) a strong letter asking for quick action. It is also important that we spell out exactly what is required, namely the possible reinstating of the arch but definitely substantial good looking high gates.²

² 09/02/16

KENDRICK HOLDINGS LIMITED

I should be grateful if you would inform the members of the Wells Civic Society that my above Clients have instructed builders to carry out works to the wall around Kendrick Court. In the first instance they will remove the ivy, repoint and level up the piers on either side of the vehicular gateway, then install new gates. The second phase will be to remove some steel beams that were built into the wall and are now corroding. The final phase will be to rebuild the castellated arch over the gateway. The last phase is reliant on a structural engineer coming up with a design for the arch that is strong enough to hold the weight of the castellations, plus the saving up of funds for such a large expense. If the Society know of any grant schemes that we can access to speed things up, then we would be very interested to hear from them.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Ireland MRICS
Associate

11. Local Listings – no progress. A short discussion took place as to whether we proceed on our own, no decision was reached and the subject needs considering at a later meeting.

12. Any other Business

- i. **Post Office** – The Committee felt that the Society should react positively and support reversal of the decision to move the Post Office. **CW** to write a strongly worded letter, we need to find out who we should be approaching at the Post Office and the Agent, but they will no doubt be following national policy. Tessa Munt may have details and the Post Office may be able to tell us who to write to. **CW** to prepare a draft and let the Committee see it and make suggestions if appropriate.
- ii. **David Nasmyth Memorial** – General feeling was that The Society presents an annual award as part of Wells in Bloom. **CW** to speak to Virginia and the chair of Wells in Bloom and report back.
- iii. **CB** asks us to buy the Wells Journal supplement *Wonderful Wells* this week, which has photos of the City from the Journal and Museum archives.
- iv. Sustainable Wells (formerly Transitional Wells) will be relaunched in the Market Place on Saturday 13th February.
- v. Concern about Parking outside Wetherspoons by old cinema.
- vi. Park & Walk – may be proposed in the future on the current site of Palace Farm. The 2002 Local Development Plan included a proposal for further car parking.
- vii. Drains – **RE** asked whether these are always receiving the attention they require for new builds; **GB** said that it would be part of the essential infrastructure of any development.
- viii. Design Magazine- handed to **AF** to put in Museum Library rather than our archives in Museum.
- ix. **PW** to approach James Heapey MP as a future speaker.
- x. Keward Stream –**RB** to ask for findings and report of the work carried out by Shaun Plenty of Bridgwater College.³
- xi. It was suggested that we should publicise our Planning contributions at evening meetings. **CW** asked **GB** if he could do a short slot tomorrow at the Museum.

Next Meeting – Pickwicks 2.00pm 8th March 2016.

CW offered her apologies, as this is the day of the HCCA/APPG meeting in London.

For and on behalf of Carter Jonas LLP

³ 10/02/16

I'm afraid to say that such a report does not exist. The students carried out the work as part of their course and we do not write reports on the content of their studies. I would be happy to put something together for you but am rather busy at the moment as I am leaving the college at the end of next week to start a fisheries/aquatic ecology consultancy business. As you can imagine this is not leaving me with too much free time!

If the civic society would be happy to commission a small amount of work then I would happy to carry out survey work and write a detailed report for your use.

Best wishes,
Shaun

Wells Civic Society Committee Minutes
Pickwicks, 8th March 2016

Present – Adrian l’Anson, Graham Barrow, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew, Fawcett, John Rackham and Philip Welch.

Apologies – Clare Blackmore, Ray Bennett, Rodney Angel, Rod Hudsmith, Chris Winter

Minutes of last Meeting – these were approved and signed by Philip Welch.

Matters Arising – there were no issues to discuss.

Chair’s Report - The Museum will concentrate on reflecting the history of the City. A legacy has recently been bequeathed to the Museum by Jean Imray.

Planning - The City Council have sanctioned a Housing Needs Survey on 7th March. The Enquiry concerning the land to the West of Wells, an appeal has been refused, the Local Plan requires a 23 acre buffer zone whilst the application only allowed for 12 acres.

Environment – Before committing ourselves to a Report it was felt that we should know the content of the Report, the length and the actual scope of any report. **RB** to check

Membership –Nothing further to report.

Plaques – Nothing to add to March Committee report.

Trees – There is an Alder tree in Market Street that **RE** feels should have a preservation Order. **RE** asks whether the Society gets involved in Tree Preservation Orders? It was thought that we would not generally take the lead to have a Preservation Order awarded. It was thought that it would be a good idea to take a photograph of the relevant tree and bring it to the attention of Mendip District Council. Apparently the tree is just outside the Conservation Area Plan.

Listings – Once again nothing to report.

Treasurer – Nothing to add to the March Committee Report.

Any other Business – Committee were grateful to James Heapey’s efforts to retain the Post Office. It was felt that **CW** should write to the Post Office Head Office thanking them for their decision.

RE asked whether the Society were involved with the “Clean for the Queen”. It was thought that we were not in a position to lead on this and get our own Members together but we should where possible help promote the campaign.

Bishop’s Barn – something is happening, Christiana Dixon has been asked by the Council to compile a Report detailed how she feels that the Barn should be used and promoted. The Council feel that the Trustees plan lacks ambition.

Cedar Hall ask if we can support them? We have been invited in the past but little has occurred in the last 12 months.

Housing Needs Survey, it was asked where were the new jobs in and around the City?

Apparently there is the possibility of a micro brewery in Market Street. Dave Masters is the owner.

Car Parking was once again mentioned, how can we get more?

Guard House Lane- new renovation, 3 floors, flats above and shops downstairs.

A dispute in Milton Lane, no. 24, new two storey annexe overlooks a property in Ash Grove, this is a private dispute and should be settled by the neighbours, Society is not involved.

Co-Op building, concern about numerous notices etc on the windows. **JR** suggested perhaps the local primary schools could use it to display their art. **PW** suggested that **JR** approach the Agents.

EU Referendum, **JR** wondered whether the Society could hold a meeting to help our Members and the public to understand the issues involved.

Next Meeting – Pickwicks, 12th April 2016.(**AF** will not be present)

Wells Civic Society Committee Minutes
Pickwicks, 12th April 2016

Present – Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Adrian I' Anson, John Rackham, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies** – Rodney Angel, Andrew Fawcett and Rod Hudsmith
2. **Minutes of last Meeting** – **GB** pointed out that there was a small error in the Planning paragraph, this was changed and the minutes signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters Arising** – **RB** pointed out that the U3A were involved with “Clean for the Queen” campaign.
4. **Chair's Report** -
 - The Historic Cathedral Cities Alliance meeting (8th March): our MP James Heapey did appear but only stayed a short time. It was confirmed that the Society were to continue to support **CW**'s travel expenses for these meetings.
 - **David Naysmith memorial**: it was agreed that we should go with the idea of an award for the best schools' vegetable garden. A cup (or similar) will be purchased to be presented in October as part of the Wells in Bloom award ceremony. Cost up to £100.00 was agreed. It was also thought that it would be sensible to add a gift voucher, cost £20.00. Virginia Naysmith will be consulted further regarding the award.
 - **Richard Hanks** will not be at John Barkle's talk and **CB** agreed to write the report for the Wells Journal.
 - **Local Listings**: **CW** to lead a sub committee to look into the feasibility of our own report. **AA, JR, PB** and **CW** to convene and report back.
 - **Wells Waterways**: **CW** to contact Shaun Plenty regarding an outline report to map the waterways at an agreed fee of £250. Responsibility for clearing rubbish etc mainly falls to land owners up to middle of stream adjacent to their property. Some ownership is very unclear.
 - **Newsletter** – We need to issue one this summer to include next year's programme. Will all report writers please let **CW** have copy for the next meeting?
5. **Plaques Report** – **PW** received confirmation from Mendip that plaque can be placed on the Swan Hotel but must be cast aluminium. This will cost more, **PW** hopes that Swan will pay 100% cost. Some existing plaques are not readable. Waterways plaque cannot be read. Need to set up an annual cleaning scheme. **PW** to advise what he feels is required at the next meeting.
6. **Treasurer's Report** – Nothing to report. Thank you **RA** for your update. The Society has been charged for use of the projector at Museum even when we don't use it; **CW** has arranged a refund of overpayments. **CW** to ensure that **RA** knows what we use each meeting and we pay the correct amount in future.
7. **Membership Report** – **CB** still chasing up those that have not paid their sub. It was agreed that some members at Mondyes Court are unlikely to renew membership. It was hoped that Paddy O'Hagan and Steve Wilson would renew.
8. **Trees** – **RE** asked Bo Walsh about a tree protection order for a particular alder tree.
9. **Programme Report** - December 2016 meeting: **CW** has approached a local chocolatiere, but she cannot make our usual Wednesday in December, it was suggested that we try to change the date. **CW** to ask members tomorrow evening for their agreement to change to another date. ¹
Further suggestions, which have since been confirmed, are:
 - Tom Bree – ‘Sacred Geometry’, 8th March
 - Julia Wood, City Archivist & Jerry Sampson, ‘Singing Stones’ – May 10th
 - Phillipa Threlfall-Collings – February 8thOther possible Speakers: –
 - Barry Lane, Curator Wells, Museum
 - James Stevens – Carter Jonas / farming and land issues.

¹ this was unanimous and arrangements have been put in place with the Museum and the chocolatiere for a tasting on **Thursday December 15th**

- 10. Bishop's Barn** - The recently engaged consultant has spoken to **CW**; apparently there are strong personalities involved and not everyone has the same opinion. It will be interesting to view the Consultant's report.
- 11. Neighbourhood Plan – Philip Welch.** Progress is being made. The Council is looking for revised terms of reference. The Council seems to feel that they should have a greater input than they have to date. There are still only 3 Council representatives: Chris Britton, David Swain (Vice Chair of Steering Group) who is very proactive and Norman Kennedy. Unfortunately John Osman is rarely seen at the Steering Meetings. The Council wish the minutes be on their website (as well as ours) and the Town Clerk (or deputy) has been asked take the minutes. They wish to call the Steering Committee a City Advisory Sub Committee and make sure that the Agenda, meetings and minutes all are timed to ensure that the initial sub committee minutes can be discussed by the City Planning Committee who can then report to the Full Council at the earliest opportunity.
The Council wish to see all the consultation paperwork that the Neighbourhood Plan has received from City residents.
It is important to try and encourage the public to attend the Steering Committee meetings.
The Housing Needs Survey will be put out to tender. It appears that the Council may be persuaded to do photocopying emanating from the Steering Committee.
- 12. Planning Report** – There was nothing significant to report.
- 13. Environment Report** – Waterways covered earlier.
- 14. John Barkle talk – CW** attending a City Tourism Forum from 6pm so will not be as early as usual. **JR** to pick up Virginia Naysmith at 6.45pm.
- 15. Any other Business:**
- Kendrick Court: RC handed previous correspondence to PW; however since the meeting scaffolding has been erected so it is hoped that progress will be made in the near future.
 - Agreed £200 to support Wells in Bloom.
 - We have also received a nice letter from HeadsUp thanking us for the £50 contribution to funds.
 - CB also thanked the Society for the £100 to help with the children's Swan Day workshop at the Museum.
 - JR to pursue the Agent for the former Co-op regarding the state of the shop frontage.
 - Communal Calendar – Andy Webb is hoping to introduce one on Website.
 - **RB/AA** received ASHTAV publication.
 - **CW** thanked **RH** for his correspondence and interest.
 - **RB** to write to the Journal about speeding in St Thomas Street.
- 16. Next Meeting** – Pickwicks at 2.00pm Tuesday 10th May 2016

Wells Civic Society Committee Minutes Pickwicks, 10th May 2016

Present – Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, , Adrian I' Anson, Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

Apologies – Rodney Angel, Clare Blackmore, Rosemary Evans, Rod Hudsmith.

Minutes of last Meeting – agreed and signed.

Matters Arising - there was nothing that would not be discussed at this meeting.

Waterways Project - Shaun Plenty was welcomed by **CW** and he proceeded to tell us about his Wells Waterways Report which was yet to be finished.

Shaun has walked 3 streams and looked at the various pipes entering the stream, the small weirs, and the general state of the streams. He is pleased to report the water content appears to be good and he has seen small brown trout in these streams.

Maintenance – a mixed state, some in parts are well maintained, parts are poor (generally when ownership is unknown). Litter is prevalent in places such as near Lidl, particularly downstream from there, barbed wire is on this stretch. Some residential properties have septic tanks that may be leaking into the streams. This would be a matter for the Environment Agency. Possible concern at Keward Industrial site.

What can be done? Shaun says organisations such as the Wild Trout Trust may be able to help. Is Lidl prepared to tackle their part of the stream? Can Mendip or City Council force Lidl or any other owner to take action to clean up their part of a stream? Comment was made of netting between Lidl and the newish houses/flats, who put this in place? The effectiveness of the Housing Management Co set up by the flats is not known.

There was also comment about a little weir opposite the Full Moon, apparently this is not advisable as it will hinder any fish.

Shaun is finalising his Report with the necessary recommendations.

Chair's Report – **CW** attended a meeting (Wells Soup) at Seager Hall on 16th April at which charitable organisations are given 4 minutes in front of an audience to compete for the a sum of money (the entry paid by visitors for bread and soup lunch). This sum is also matched funded by a local sponsor. 70 people attend this session, they will be held approximately every 3 months. **CW** asked whether we should consider sponsoring an event, supporting local groups and increasing our profile. Soup was served and music was played. Food was donated by Waitrose, Fairshare Bristol and Morrisons, and prepared by students from the Blue School.

Budget Strategy – we need a clear focus, what do we really want to achieve and how do we wisely spend our resources? **CW** agreed to work on a draft for the next meeting.

Swan workshop – the collage made by children at the workshop is displayed in the Museum.

Plaques Report - How do we clean them? **RB** volunteered to clean the plaque outside the Edinburgh Wool Shop. Is this the Society's responsibility or is there any body else in the City that can add this task to their local cleaning schedule?

Environment Report – **RH** committee report will be added to the May Reports.

Planning Report – There was no activity this month.

Local Listings – the decision was taken to go ahead and collate our list and John Winston's list. These listings are local and have no legal status, but may be considered during planning decisions. The format of a publication was discussed. **AIA** agreed to contact John Winstone.

It will be the responsibility of Mendip DC to advise house owners that their property is included on the list. Further discussion with MDC will be needed regarding costs and other potential funding explored – eg: Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust.

The publication might be launched at the 2017 AGM.

CW said she would canvas the Civic Voice to discover how other Societies are dealing with Local Listings.

Programme Report - It is confirmed that Jerry Sampson will talk about the Reredos Project at St Cuthbert's in January 2017. The programme is almost complete and will be published with the next newsletter.

Fire Brigade Lecture – Paul Pickford is talking tomorrow on Wells and the history of the fire brigade.

Any Other Business:

- Scaffolding has appeared at Kendrick Court but it is not clear what repairs are being undertaken.
- Can we have a Summer meeting in 2017?
- Visit to Bridgwater is likely to be in August.
- Housing Needs Survey – this is crucial if the Neighbourhood Plan is to go forward and the City Council has now commissioned this. St Cuthbert Out has announced that they are also doing the same survey. **PW** will speak to Jane Birch (the consultant undertaking the survey) to ensure that she receives the correct brief from the City Council. **CW** also highlighted that Parliament is keen to put more weight behind Neighbourhood Plans.
- **Newsletter – CW wishes to receive your copy for inclusion in our latest Newsletter by Wednesday 1st June 2016.**

Next Meeting – Pickwicks at 2.00pm Tuesday 7th June 2016.

MINUTES OF WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY MEETING
TUESDAY JUNE 7TH 2.00PM AT PICKWICK'S CAFÉ

Present: Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson & Chris Winter.

Apologies: Ray Bennett, Roger Cookman, Rod Hudsmith, John Rackham & Philip Welch.

Matters Arising: None

Minutes of last meeting signed as a correct record.

1. Shaun Plenty Waterways Report.

Shaun reported his findings on the Wells Waterways Survey.

1. The stream by Lidl's and to the back of Tincknell's is not in a very good state.
2. Generally the water quality of the streams is good and the wildlife healthy but there are areas where visually it could be improved.
3. There were no obvious pollution issues.
4. The development on Bishop's Brook had done a very good job on the stream and it would now be left to naturalise.
5. Chris Winter said that now we have the evidence recorded a future plan could be developed to include other agencies to improve and maintain the waterway. CW suggested the acronym W.E.T. Waterways Enhancement Team.
6. Adrian suggested that now we have the report we tell the City Council and Mendip as the information needs to be shared for the benefit of the city.
7. Shaun was happy to make it a public document and suggested we could have public information and habitat boards.
8. We now need to move forward and have a look at the report and let Chris have any feedback asap so that it can be moved on.

2. Treasurers Report / Budget

1. Rodney reported that he has applied for the Gift Aid for 2013/2104 and that the application for 2015 has two years before it need to be applied for. Rodney said he had only claimed where he was 100% clear that Gift Aid was indicated.
2. Donations should be made where possible from cash flow and not assets.
3. CW said that operating costs were more or less predictable and that outgoings approximately matched incomings.
4. RA said the Scottish Widows account had not been used in three years.
5. There was a discussion with regards to the Harry Parkes bequest. All felt that some of it should be spent on relevant projects; all present agreed that this might include up to 20% of the cost of the *Wells in Mosaic* project, but this ought to be put to the members after Ruth Ames-White's talk in the autumn.
Patrick thought that Harry Parkes would be delighted with such a project and that it encompasses the remit of the bequest and of the Civic Society constitution.
6. It was also agreed to publish Shaun's report.
7. All agreed to continue to pay Chris's expenses for her good work with Civic Voice / Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns.

3. Tourism Management

1. CW reported on the present proposal to appoint a coach management company for Wells which was being led by Andy Webb.
- 2 The contract (£7,500 pa) has to be funded and it has been suggested that interested parties donate £500 each initially which would cover 10 hours a week for the year.
3. The consensus of the committee was that this was a good idea and much needed for Wells and again within the Civic Society's remit of promoting the city and its heritage.

4. It was agreed to contribute £500, with the proviso that there would be a review at the end of a specified period, before committing for a further year.

4. Local Listing

1. Chris wanted to thank Patrick and Adrian for their work on this.
2. This should be coordinated by Jane Boldy, of Mendip District Council, who would be asked to help to establish criteria for inclusion on the List.
3. Patrick, Adrian and Chris suggested that the next step should be a meeting with Jane as the Listing should be backed by Mendip to give it credibility and that the criteria are the same for other towns in the area.
4. CW to set up a meeting.

5. Programme

1. CW reported that this was now complete for next year; it was agreed that a summer visit to the Palace Gardens would be better than to Stoberry Gardens due to ease of access for members.

6. Plaques

1. Philip was taking forward both the outdoor and indoor plaques. One suggestion for an indoor plaque was Julie Romeo at Earthcraft who has been in business for over 30 years.

7. Membership

1. Clare reported two new members this week, two more potential members to attend evening at the Deanery Gardens and two more asked for application forms at the Swan Hotel evening function.

8. Trees

1. Rosemary reported that one of the Sequoia trees was looking very poorly. She had talked to James Cross (Bishop's Palace gardener) but thinks we need to wait and see if it picks up.

9. Planning

1. Graham reported that Beah has applied to develop their upstairs space into two flats. No objection.

10. A.O.B. Chris asked for contributions to the newsletter by 21st June please.

11. Date of Next Meeting: 9th August 2pm at Pickwick's

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

Wells Civic Society
Minutes
of the Committee Meeting
held on 9th August 2016

Present: Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, Philip Welch & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies:** Clare Blackmore, Rosemary Evans, Rod Hudsmith & John Rackham.
2. **Approve Minutes of the last Meeting - 7th June 2016** Agreed and signed
3. **Matters arising not on the Agenda** None
4. **Officers' Reports:**

i. Chair

Circulated; it was agreed that the Bishop's Palace Garden was too expensive to be considered for the **2017 Summer Social**; AF suggested the Museum & garden unless there were any other proposals.

It was also agreed that a **donation of £50** should be made to the Old Deanery Gardens for hosting the July event.

ii. Treasurer

An up-to-date summary spreadsheet was tabled; RA added that the **Gift Aid** had been received which left only one year to be dealt with.

RA said he would like a clearer indication of the level of commitment for the **Wells in Mosaic** project. It was agreed that it was still too early for an estimate of costs as PW would be exploring this with the Ames-Whites as the project progressed, and was not likely until the New Year at the earliest. It was agreed that either a percentage of costs *or* an amount would be agreed in order that RA could make the necessary sales of investments. This is likely to be *in the region of* £12,500 but would be confirmed at a later date.

It was also agreed that this project must be made to work for the Society in terms of profile raising and its legacy for the City.

iii. Membership

CW confirmed that quite a few new members had joined over the last few months thanks to the efforts of some members of the committee and we need to work at this to replace lost members and also for income generation.

iv. Plaques

PW's comprehensive report had been circulated; CW thanked him for all his work and especially for the recent presentations of plaques at the Blue School (which generated a great deal of publicity) and the Swan Hotel.

PW added that he had been in contact with Alan Southwood regarding the plaque for The Crown Inn and would arrange the unveiling and publicity for this.

The next indoor plaque to be presented would probably be to *Protec* in Queen Street, which would be another opportunity for an article and photo in the Wells Journal.

The subgroup meeting scheduled for 4pm would discuss further opportunities and the site for a possible plaque for W G Grace.

v. Environment

Wells Waterways: CW had circulated her response to Shaun Plenty's report and possible next steps. She suggested that this would be a very worthwhile project but that it would need a significant commitment of time and other resources. It was agreed that other partners might be sought to help to take it forward; for example Lidl and Tincknells who could benefit from the publicity.

AF agreed to speak to one of the volunteers at the Museum who is pupil at the Blue School and might like to become involved in pursuit her environmental interests.

RH had raised further concerns regarding **Kendrick Court** where renovation work was started but not completed. AIA agreed to contact MDC regarding a Section 215 Notice to compel the owners to act. PW agreed to supply a photo and copies of the site drawings RC had given him.

vi. Trees

RE's report circulated; CW thanked her for her work as it is vital to establish a good relationship with the MDC officer responsible for trees.

vii. Planning

Bishop's Barn & Recreation Ground: there had been extensive local media coverage recently regarding progress of these projects. Whilst the Better Play Areas for Wells group has already achieved great improvements to several playgrounds, work on the one adjacent to the Barn has been agreed and has just begun.

The Barn continues to be controversial, but immediate repairs will be carried out and for the time being MDC will continue to manage the Trust until such time as an agreed plan is in place.

Neighbourhood Plan / Housing Needs Survey

AIA reported that the steering group now has a full complement of City Councillors and that funding for the HNS was being applied for by the City Council. However information was not being freely shared with the rest of the steering group about this process.

The Terms of Reference of the steering group were under review by the Mayor and Town Clerk and were expected to be discussed at the Council meeting in September.

Angela Terry from Sustainable Wells had offered to help with aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan concerned with sustainability and environmental issues.

AIA reported that MDC had agreed with the developers of Bishop's Brook that they would not be obliged to comply with some of the Section 106 agreements regarding housing mix. He planned to meet with representatives from Persimmon regarding the West of Wells development.

viii. Local Listing

CW had no response to her emails to Jayne Boldy (MDC). AIA reported that at MCAP meetings it had been apparent that the other towns (Glastonbury, Street, Shepton Mallet and Frome) had made no progress with their Lists, and it had to be taken forward at the 'pace of the slowest'. As the Historic England guidance makes it clear that property owners must be consulted before inclusion in the List it is not possible for Wells to go ahead other than under the guidance of MDC. AIA agreed to contact Jayne again to try to arrange a meeting.

5. Visit to Bridgwater 10th August

CW reported that everything was in place for the visit; 13 members would be going.

6. Any other Business

AF said that he had been pleased to hear from members who had shown an interest, having read the recent newsletter.

RB raised the perennial issue of traffic in the City. AIA said that he had recently spoken to Cllr Harvey Siggs about this and that there is still significant resistance to traffic restrictions being imposed in the city centre.

7. Date of the next Meeting

11th October 2016 at 2pm at Pickwick's

Wells Civic Society
Minutes of the Committee Meeting
held on 11th October 2016.

Present : Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l'Anson, John Rackham, Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies** - Rodney Angel, Ray Bennett, Patrick Brown & Rod Hudsmith
2. **Approve Minutes of the last meeting** : the 9th August 2016 minutes were duly approved and signed.
3. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda** : None

4. Officers' Reports :

Chair – We need to revisit the Waterways project when more time allows. Virginia Nasmyth is presenting the David Nasmyth Award at the Wells in Bloom awards ceremony and we are also ensuring that an annual voucher to the value of £25.00 is given.

The Tourism Forum is still operative, current work trying to arrange for better coach management in the City. Also need to look at a Heritage Trail, small group to take this forward, being AF, CW, JR & RC.

Our website – agreed that action required. Doug Robinson (who manages the Museum website) has offered to update ours. It was agreed that to facilitate this, a new system would be put in place which would need payment of the annual hosting fee; this was agreed.

Mosaic – the first choice location on the grass outside the Bishop's Palace may not be possible. CW and team to negotiate with Trustees.

CW explained further details of the Civic Voice conference at which she will officially take a position on the Board of Trustees.

AIA agreed to lead a team for the Mayor's Quiz.

Treasurer – Society has made a number of donations during the last year, they are:-

Wells Chamber Of Commerce	£100
Heads Up	50
Wells Museum	100 (Swan Workshop)
Wells in Bloom	200
David Nasmyth Award	45
Old Deanery Gardens	50
Tourism Forum	500 – Cathedral, Palace, and others also contributed.
Total	1045

The 'summer' entry refers to the Bridgwater trip. Well done to CW for the arrangements.

Membership – 2 Members who have moved away. Approx 12 new Members, some subscriptions coming in for the new year.

Plaques - Earthcraft has been agreed for indoor plaque. There was also reference to the Monmouth Rebellion and Thomas Syrell's papers, these may tell us where in the Market Square individuals were beheaded. CB thinks she may be able to find out more information.

Environment- There has been some thinning of a Copper Beech in Ash Lane. One of the Sequoia trees is still looking unhappy up on the Palace fields, RE wonders whether wood bark round the base of the tree to suppress the weeds may help. RE will consult James Cross. RE has also spotted ash dieback in Tor Woods and will consult with Bo Walsh at Mendip D C and will report back.

Planning – Neighbourhood Plan: the September application for funding for a Housing Needs Survey was turned down; this leaves the Plan in jeopardy. The Society needs to ensure that we come out of this with a positive stance. GB, AIA & PW are working on the legacy of the process, which has been very positive. The St Cuthbert Out NP has always been interdependent and its future is also unclear. The Committee felt that all Members who have been on the Steering Group over the last few years should be thanked for their enthusiasm and the hours of work that they have done.

Kendrick Court – we thought we were getting somewhere but all activity has ceased without sorting out the wooden panels. AIA felt that Dr Ansell (Owner) should be served with a Sec 215 Notice, however he intention is to write to Mendip D C, Dr Ansell and James Stephen at Cater Jonas to try and solve the eyesore.

AIA will meet with representatives of Persimmon / Taylor Wimpey regarding the west of Wells development. He is also working with Sustainable Wells to improve the energy efficiency of new housing.

5. 2016/7 Programme

Above is complete and copies were available on 12th October at the Mosaic presentation.

6. **Waterways Survey**– this was discussed earlier. Wider support will be sought and the project will be looked in greater depth in due course.
7. **Heritage Trail** – As noted above, 4 Committee Members are getting together to take this forward. CW to arrange when convenient for initial meeting.
8. **Mosaic Talk** – Wine will be available as the start of the new season. Everything else OK.
9. **Any other business** - AF had written to the Wells Journal regarding traffic in the city centre. CW agreed to send him copies of the surveys and reports carried out on behalf of the Society in the recent past.
10. **Next Meeting** – 8th November2016 at Pickwicks at 2.00am

26th October 2016.

Wells Civic Society
Committee Minutes 8th November 2016

Present : Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham, Philip Welch, Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies :** Rodney Angel, Adrian l'Anson, Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett & Rod Hudsmith
2. **Approve Minutes of last Meeting** on 11th October 2016 - Agreed & signed.
3. **Matters Arising not on Agenda** – None
4. **Officers' Reports**
 - a) **Chair** - nothing to add to her written report.
 - b) **Treasurer** - Nothing to Report
 - c) **Membership** - Currently 177 Members. Committee felt that it was not worth chasing Rosemary Carter, Pauline Fielder, Saskia Johnson and Bob Maxwell for their Subs. Thanks to **CB** for all her efforts.
 - d) **Planning** - Norman Kennedy(City Councillor) again thanked Society for their efforts with Planning applications. Kendrick Court is still ongoing, it was suggested that the Council (David Woodridge) tries enforcement with a Sec 215 application. **AA** to advise further at next meeting. It was pointed out to the Committee that the Cathedral School had leased Beaumont House in New Street.
 - e) **Plaques** - The Crown are to receive an Outdoor Plaque on 22nd November 2016. Millicans the opticians qualify for an Indoor plaque.
 - f) **Neighbourhood Plan** - The Wells City Council Planning Committee dealing with this voted to discontinue with the Neighbourhood Plan. The matter will be taken to the full Council for ratification. Great disappointment for the Society. Councillors never really grasped the concept and the benefits to the City and its development. When a Grant was applied for regarding Housing Needs Survey the application was turned down as the Council had cut and paste references from other applicants, this practice was frowned upon and several sections were not completed at all. The government advisor said that if another application was submitted in our own words it was likely to be accepted. **CW** read out to the Committee a draft letter she intended to send to the Wells Journal should the Council support their Sub committee's recommendation.
The Committee agreed with this action. The letter would not be issued until **PW** has attended the Council meeting and pleaded that they reverse their earlier decision. It was wondered whether James Heapey could help. Glastonbury have appointed a new Deputy Town Clerk to mastermind their Neighbourhood Plan, it was wondered whether this individual could be persuaded to make a full presentation to the full Wells City Council? The Council meets on November 24th 2016.
 - g) **Trees** - Nothing to report
 - h) **Environment** - Nothing to report.
5. **Website** - Doug Robinson has agreed to update and revise the website and CW is working with him on this. The speed that the photos are shown is too fast, this will be dealt with. We must make use of all quotes, text that can help make our website really user friendly and create a need for those looking at it to come and see for themselves. Apparently J.B.Priestley said " What a joy there is in Wells". **CW** keen that committee members write an inspiring account of their area of responsibility. Perhaps we can make reference to the plaque Norman Kennedy gave to the Society. The logo also needs updating. Need to speak to Phillipa Threfall about original plaque motif. A good website is vital if we are to attract a new audience. Good examples are Lichfield and Ely. An up-to-date format would allow emails to be sent via the website to remind members of meetings and to circulate news etc.

6. **Alan Stone's Talk** - Everything under control for tomorrow nights talk. Apparently the museum is acquiring a new projector which should be available shortly.

7. **Any other Business**

- a) **Reducing traffic through the High Street: AF** championing this, with Michael Johns of the Chamber of Commerce: traffic could be encouraged to use Chamberlain Street or the bypass with better signage (County's responsibility) parking (Mendip DC).
- b) **Coach/Bus Tourism** – the Tourism Forum is exploring various options to improve the services including providing a more suitable dropping off place (not Sadler Street), facilities for Coach Drivers, Vouchers and leaflet distribution.
- c) **Playground** – All expressed their sorrow/disappointment with the fire. Apparently there was insurance, and Crowd Funding is raising additional funds for improvements including CCTV and lighting. Reference to syringes being in the wooden structure on the first day.
- d) **Wells in Mosaic** – the Palace Trust has indicated that they no longer wish the mosaic to be on the grass outside the drawbridge. Negotiations are ongoing. Perhaps Bishop Hancock should be approached to see if he could be persuaded to back the required site, if so, how do we approach him? What alternatives are there?

DON'T FORGET NEXT TALK (CHOCOLATE) IS ON THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER 2016.

Date of next Meeting - 2.00pm Tuesday 13th December at Pickwicks.

NB: the next meeting will put plans in place for the AGM on January 11th 2017

2015 minutes

Wells Civic Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting – 13th January 2015

Present – Adrian l’Anson, Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett, Patrick Brown, Clare Blackmore Roger Cookman, John Rackham, Philip Welch & Chris Winter

1. **Apologies** – Rodney Angel, Kirstie Harris, Rod Hudsmith & David Nasmyth
2. **Minutes of the last meeting 9th December 2014** – these were approved by Chris Winter and signed.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - i. **CB** stated that she had booked a stall in the market on Saturday 16th May.
 - ii. Also we think we have a line on Edgar Wright through his mother.
 - iii. Shop Front in Sadler Street, **CW** has spoken to Mendip DC who have contacted the shopkeeper who is agreeable to removing the sign, however it is still there(27/1).
 - iv. Committee also advised of 2 upcoming talks – Sue Medlycott on Hospices Gardens and their therapeutic role on 17th Feb and Philippa Threlfall on 21st Jan on “50 years of Mural Making” at the Red Brick Building in Glastonbury.
 - v. Boyne Memorial Trees in Palace Fields: it was important with the new planting that there is a stronger and bigger fence round the trees, hence greater cost - £376 plus VAT. It was agreed that **CW** could contact the Bishops Palace Trust to ask if they would consider sharing the cost.
4. Kirstie Harris stepped down from the Committee at the AGM, as she feels that she is involved with so many things that she really cannot give the Society the time that is required. The Committee were sad to see her go but asked that **CW** make sure that Kirstie is aware that we were all very impressed with how she led us out of the mess for the December meeting.

There was all round praise for the Orchard Pig evening and **CW** is hoping that the Museum will at last start doing what we have asked them to do!! **CW** making sure that we have telephone numbers of key holders who live nearby. Also this info is being put on the front door.

5. It was with great regret that we learnt that the National Trust shop is due to close on 22nd February 2015. Apparently National Trust are withdrawing from the High Streets in Wells, Salisbury and York. St David’s, Pembrokeshire also has a NT shop on their High Street. **CW** agreed to contact NT, York & Salisbury to see if there was any chance of overturning the decision, although it seemed doubtful.
6. **PW** updated us on the proposed Mosaic on the grass outside the Bishop’s Palace, apparently our letters had been misplaced, Greg Hudson (Church Commissioners) has agreed to the concept and asked us to liaise with the Palace, which in fact is already underway.

PW asked whether it was appropriate to present a plaque to Rock House Dental Practice on completion of 30 years service, there were no dissenters. **PB** also said the Priest Row plaque has not yet been replaced.

7. Changing times, **RC** stepped down from his many years at the forefront of all planning issues; this was flagged last year and **AI’A** and **GB** are to succeed **RC**. The Committee thanked Roger for his excellent service and are glad to hear that he will still contribute.

Mendip Conservation Area Planning Committee: this meets approx every 6 weeks and **RC** is happy to continue to represent the Society. **AI’A** hopes to join him.

Wells City Council City Centre Management Committee also meets approx every 6 weeks, **CW** is our main representative but **RC** has agreed to stand in when required.

8. Bishop’s Barn: Governance of the Trust is changing. A shadow Board will be set up for a short period and in due course will appoint New Trustees. It is hoped that the Society will be involved in the longer term and it was agreed that **CW** would apply, representing the Civic Society.

9. Wells Neighbourhood Plan: a Draft Plan will be presented to the Wells City Council on 29th January, following wide ranging consultation throughout Wells. This will then be sent to all the various City bodies and Societies etc and made available for the public to comment. After amendments and approval of WCC it will be submitted to Mendip District Council, for the completion of the process.
10. **2015 AGM:** thank you to everyone who kindly submitted their Reports which will form part of the Annual Report to be presented to the AGM. A big thank you to **CW** for doing more than her fair share due to **JR** being unavailable for a couple of weeks. JR managed to provide the Minutes for the 2014 AGM but not in sufficient time for them to be circulated to all the Members. The various Reports were briefly discussed with no issues being raised.
11. **Next Meeting** will be at Pickwicks at 2.00pm Tuesday 10th February 2015.

27th January 2015

WELLS CIVIC SOCIETY MINUTES
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10TH 2015 Pickwicks

PRESENT: Chris, David, Ray, Clare, Adrian, Roger

APOLOGIES: Phil, Patrick, Graham, Rodney, John

1. Minutes of last meeting signed by chair as a true and correct record
2. Matters Arising. None
3. Programme secretary needs to be replaced now Kirstie has gone
4. Civic Society needs an auditor. Committee members asked to keep eyes and ears open for someone suitable
5. Civic Society questionnaire. 5 returns so far
6. Phone shop. The sign is still there but action is in progress.
7. Trees. Good news from the Bishop's palace who have agreed to donate £100 for tree guards which are already in place. Date for dedication with Bishop end of March/April?
8. The National trust Shop is seen as a lost cause despite over 140 letters being sent.
9. Bishop's Barn. The Trust Governance Advisory Board due to be appointed then the permanent board. CW to find out more from Jane Sharp.
10. Finance. Reinvest income from investment into the account.
11. Planning. Adrian and Graham to attend Mendip Conservation meetings. The committee thanked Roger for his attendance. Graham going to view majestic Wine application and C.S. have put their views in writing. David to try and attend Friday planning views.
12. Environment. Ray to invite Bridgewater College man to a meeting about Keward Brook as they require £1.366 for tools and C. S. need to know more.
13. Local listings. C.W. to see if we can publish on website.
14. Membership. Subs coming in.
15. A.O.B. none
16. Next meeting 10th March 2.00pm Pickwicks

Meeting closed at 3.25pm

Signed as a correct record by chair _____

Date. _____

**Wells Civic Society Committee
Meeting at Pickwicks on
Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 2.0pm**

Present – Rodney Angel, Adrian I' Anson, Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett, Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, David Nasmyth, John Rackham, Philip Welch and Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies** - Patrick Brown, Rod Hudsmith
2. **Minutes of the last Committee Meeting** - these were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising** - We still need a Programme Secretary and a Qualified Person to certify the Accounts. **JR** mentioned that he may have found a possible Certifier. **CW** suggested we should meet him before appointing.
4. **Chairman's Report** - **A** full report has been received, please view Agenda. It was agreed that the Society should pursue the approach from Civic Voice and Canterbury Society re the Historic Cathedral Cities Alliance . **CW** will keep us informed.
CW asked for help with Local Listings, it was agreed that these could be published before the other Towns in Mendip DC as it would help with the Neighbourhood Plan. Help is required to set out the presentation in a professional manner, any ideas? It was also agreed that we would be delighted to receive a delegation From the Bridgewater Society in July.
5. **Treasurers Report** – Committee were delighted to see **Rodney Angel**, thank you for finding the time. Income this year is likely to be approx £1173 some £250 less than last year. Subscriptions still coming in slowly. Comment was raised about standing orders still be receiving at a much lower rate than our current subscription. It was also suggested that we change to Direct Debit – **RA** to check what is involved and any costs. It was thought that if we had a Membership Drive we should try and promote D/debit and that would be the time to have a uniform subscription. Gift Aid also being reviewed by **RA**. **RA** to contact **JR** about charity return.
6. **Plaques** - Meeting this afternoon about Mosaic on lawn outside Palace.
7. **Environmental** – Wells waterways project on hold as Shaun Plenty currently abroad. See Report in Agenda. **CW** to chase up tree in Car Park! (Union Street). **PW** to contact Carter Jonas about the planking in New Street – ongoing issue. **AA** to contact Robert Palmer (MDC) about Kebab and phone shop signs.
8. **Planning** – See Agenda for report. There was concern over lights at Waitrose (on too late at night, expensive) and also Cathedral Green, are they all working? **AA** and **GB** attended Mendip Conservation Advisory Panel meeting, nothing significant to report. Well done re refusal of planning application for retail and hot food outlet opposite Morrisons.

JR/CW/RC need to sort out whether **RC** needs to remain a Trustee of WCS.
9. **Membership, Local Listings, Trees** – Nothing to report.
10. **Any Other Business** – **RC** pointed out that the Town Council had their Annual Parish meeting at the Town Hall at 6.30pm Tuesday 23rd March – **please can we have a good turnout**. **CB** to arrange to see Richard Hanks at the Museum and suggest that he restricts our monthly report to 300 words and sends it to **CB's** contact
11. **Next Meeting** – Pickwicks 2.00pm Tuesday 7th April 2015

17th March 2015

**Wells Civic Society Committee Meeting
At Pickwicks, Tuesday 7 April 2015 at 2pm.**

Present: Chris Winter, David Nasmith, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman,
Graham Barrow, Rodney Angel.

Apologies : Adrian l'Anson, Ray Bennett, Claire Blackmore, Philip Welch,
John Rackham, Rod Hudsmith

Minutes of last meeting (as amended): Agreed and signed as true record.

Matters Arising;

Action.

- a) Boyne Trees. DS advised that the replacement trees were still to be planted. CW added that James Cross was concerned about their condition as they were a sensitive species and did not adapt easily to changes in their environment. DN to invite Sandy (ex of Swan Stationers and old friend of the Boynes) to the dedication. **DN**
Date and time of dedication (2pm Mon 27 April) agreed with the Bishop in attendance as President of WCS. CW to provide Bishop's secretary with outline of the programme. **CW**
DN and PB agreed to provide a speech in honour of the Boynes. **DN/PB**
CW had contacted James re provision of access across the field.
Invitations to be extended to Michael Phelps, David Woods, Rod Hudsmith, CW to write a piece for the Journal with an open invitation to those who knew the Boynes. **CW**
- b) Tree in Union St Car Park. CW confirmed the tree outside Whitings had been replaced. DN observed that it needed watering and offered to approach Michelle Machin owner of Whitings inquiring whether someone from the store could give the tree a daily watering. **DN**
- c) Civic Voice. CW reported that membership would cost WCS in the region of £210pa (£1.50 a head x 140) and that this seemed unreasonable to pursue. RC still received copies of their newsletter and offered to continue to circulate it to members of the Committee. **RC**
- d) Neighbourhood Plan. CW advised that the 6 weeks period of Public Consultation expired on 26 March and that replies were being analysed and the text and policies amended.
- e) Market Stall. A stall has been booked for Sat 16 May for WCS to publicise its activities and encourage new members. A gazebo will be needed in case of inclement weather. **CW**
- f) Plaques. Priest Row plaque still to be replaced, PB to pursue with Frome Signs now that the scaffolding has been removed from the Almshouses. **PB**
The owners of the Journal's premises have given consent for a plaque on the building commemorating Edgar Wright the film director **PW**
CW to raise issue of weathering of plaques with the Historic Cathedral Cities Association at their meeting on 22 May. **CW**
- g) Waterways Clear-up. On schedule for a start in May. PB to check if more photos are required (he has taken some already) or whether the college wished to take their own. **PB**
- h) Shopfront Photographs (millennium project). CW reported that the CD only has one photo on it. PB to contact John Jessop since the digital version gives greater options for use. **PB**
- i) Planning matters: i) Kendrick Court. CW reported the doorway is to be reinstated by the end of the year with a wrought iron gate and stone archway. A diagram was tabled and questions raised regarding need for LBC/PP. PB to raise awareness by writing to the Journal with photos. **PB**
ii) Mobile phone shopfront. Still no action. CW to write to Journal with photo and also to Mendip planners. **CW**
iii) RC asked GB to ensure that any objection/comments made to Mendip

- about applications/planning matters were entered on the WCS website. **CW/GB**
- j) Finance. RA tabled the latest balance sheets but with a caveat that there may be a typing error in the figure quoted for FP CAF UK Equity fund Income. **RA**
RA to check and advise.
RA explained the 2 options for transferring members onto a DD system. One option was unworkable and the other entailed each member having to go on-line to sign up-not a realistic option since some members do not own a PC. Agreed that we will continue with the system as it currently operates.
RA advised that to claim back Gift Aid contributions 2 signatures were needed, excluding his as treasurer-ie 2 trustees need to sign. RA handed over the completed form, covering letter and SAE to CW.
- k) Insurance renewal. CW reported this years premium was the same as last year's but included a £25 Admin fee. RA requested a copy of the invoice **CW**
for his records.
- l) Programme. CW reported on the Journal's article on this week's speakers, and also informed the committee of an invitation to attend the Old Deanery gardens in June next year. WCS to provide refreshments-inside if wet.
- m) Constitution. CW advised that the constitution was extremely vague about whether or not Roger as past committee member and now a Life President , could remain on the committee. Although not having a vote members welcomed his continued attendance. The committee members are, *de facto*, all Trustees.
- n) CW drew the members attention to a link to the Charity Commissioners Website on how to work effectively.

AOB. i) PB advised that running the Bishops Barn is being transferred from a temporary Advisory group to a new Board of Trustees by the end of the year.

And stressed how important it was for CW as chair of WCS to be involved.

ii) RC asked who was responsible for maintenance of the Worminster Dragon

Mosaic on the Moat Walk. CW said she understood it was only intended as a temporary exhibit and was due to be removed.

Date of Next Meeting : Tuesday 12 May at 2pm in Pickwicks.

Wells Civic Society Committee Meeting Pickwicks, Tuesday 12th May 2015

Present - , Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett, Adrian l'Anson, David Nasmyth, John Rackham
Philip Welch, Chris Winter

1. **Apologies** - Rodney Angel, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Roger Cookman, Rod Hudsmith.
2. **Minutes of last Meeting** - Duly agreed and signed as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising** - It was deemed that all matters would be covered during the meeting.
4. **Chair's Report** -

Public Art, CW asked for our comments. Praised Frome's efforts and asked should we be trying to encourage more activity in Wells? Wells has numerous festivals; some are harnessed to coincide with each other WAC/Literary/Food in October whilst others appear to have no co-ordinated approach. It appears this year may be St Cuthbert's last music festival. Can the Civic Society help make a bigger impression? **Your thoughts please!!!**

Boyne Trees- was a success but photo was not in Journal – **PW** to try and organize.

Market Stall – Saturday 16th May 9.00am to 3.00pm. A few recruits were forthcoming.

Bishop's Barn – it was hoped that the meeting would not be disrupted by any unruly attendees.

Bridgwater Society visit – to take place 8th July, inviting our Members to get involved, slips included in Newsletter for completion and receipt by the next meeting. Also advanced payment to be received. Roger & Patrick to lead the tour.

Programme Secretary – No candidate on the horizon. **Therefore will all Committee Members please recommend a speaker for next year. Names at June Committee meeting please.** A few names were mentioned, they include: Emily Eavis, Philippa Threlfall, GFM, Richard Green, Sheena Loveday, Felicity White (Town Clerk).

5. **Planning** - No change at Sadler Street shop. Discussion also took place re Cathedral School proposed new buildings. **GB** felt it important that we could only comment on planning issues.
6. **Environment** – **RB** concerned with excess litter in the City, he agreed to write to the Journal with photographs. Dog mess – can we follow the Dartmouth example? It was also suggested that the 2 new Independent Councillors be approached about the traffic in the city, could they start a new campaign for improvements!!
7. **Plaques** – Have we a view on Acrylic plaques? Discussion took place for the Edgar Wright plaque to be at the Blue School rather than Southover, comments please in June meeting.
8. **Trees** – Boyne trees will need constant watering in dry weather; a team may be required to help water the trees when it is dry. **DN** to advise procedures, **will all Committee Members please contact DN to join the rota, many thanks.**

9. Financial- RA was not present so discussion was held on this subject.

10. AOB – No issues were raised.

11. Next Meeting – Tuesday 9th June at 2.00pm at Pickwicks.

28th May 2015

Wells Civic Society
Draft Minutes of the Committee Meeting
held on 9th June 2015

Present: Rodney Angel, Ray Bennett, Roger Cookman, Philip Welch & Chris Winter.

1. **Apologies** *Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore, Patrick Brown, Rod Hudsmith, Adrian I'Anson, David Nasmyth & John Rackham.*

2. **Approve Minutes of the last Meeting - 12th May 2015** Agreed

3. **Matters arising not on the Agenda** None not included on Agenda

4. **Chair's Report:**

i. **Historic Cathedral Cities Association (HCCA)** CW reported that the planning meeting held in London in May was very positive. Further plans would be made at the Civic Voice Conference to be held in Bristol on 23rd/24th October. As it had been agreed that membership of the CV was too expensive for WCS, CW would look into becoming an individual member.ⁱ

Action: CW

ii. **Neighbourhood Plan** CW gave a short update regarding the new Steering Group which now comprises: Cllrs Briton, Ludovino, Osman & Wilson, and WCS members GB, Al'A, PW & CW. The next meeting will be held on 29th June.

iii. It was agreed that there was no conflict of interest or loss of integrity regarding WCS committee members and membership of other organisations – in particular Wells Independents.

iv. **Market Stall 16th May:** CW thanked those who had helped on the day and it was agreed that it was successful – offering a photo opportunity which was sent with copy to the Wells Journal and featured in the newspaper, and recruiting 3 new members. It was also agreed that it would be good to have another stall in September when the new programme would be available for distribution and on a Wednesday when more local people frequent the market.

Action: CB/CW

v. CW agreed to follow up on the **shop front in Sadler Street** for the Fone Shop which still had not been replaced.

Action: CW

vi. **Tor Hill Lane** Gates have been erected at the entrance preventing cars and parking. Loss of parking for market traders is a concern but it was agreed that it is not within the remit of WCS to comment on this publicly.

5. **Membership**

i. **CB** had reported that as well as new members joining in the Market Place tow more had joined at the previous evening meeting and PW added that the Leworthys (Dentists at Rock House) had joined as Corporate Members.

ii. **RA** reported that income from membership fees was down £127 on last year and there are still some who have not paid, which CB is dealing with, and some still paying at the old rate.

6. **Planning**

i. **Ritchie House proposal:** concerns have been raised by a number of residents; the Cathedral School has responded with adaptations to the proposal. It was agreed that the consultation process had not been good. It was mentioned that a number of additional buildings are being purchased for student accommodation.

ii. WCS responses to planning applications should be available on the website. CW to work with GB to achieve this as soon as possible.

Action: CW /GB

iii. The website also needs to be updated generally.

- iv. It would be helpful to recruit an IT officer to the Committee.

7. Plaques

- i. PW had circulated a comprehensive report. The article for the Wells Journal reporting the presentation of a plaque to Rock House Dental Practice would also ask for suggestions for further awards of indoor plaques.
- ii. More outdoor plaques were also to be commissioned, in partnership with Rotary. PW to check the quality of the acrylic plaques, which were less expensive. He also planned to talk to Steve Jackson about a plaque at the Blue School to honour Edgar Wright the film director (producer?). This could offer a good PR opportunity if Edgar Wright could be persuaded to come to Wells to 'unveil' the plaque.
- iii. Plaques were also planned for the Swan and the Crown – list famous guests.
- iv. Plans for the Mosaic were being progressed and the project would be publicly announced next week in the Journal. A large amount of funding would need to be raised via grants and sponsorship from private and public sources as well as the community.

8. Environment

- i. RB reported that work on cleaning up the Keward waterways was due to start in June.
- ii. CW said that the accident experienced by a friend who slipped on litter and broke her leg serves to highlight the problem and she would send a photo and article to the Journal.
- iii. CW suggested an award scheme for shop fronts as many were very scruffy whilst others were good examples. The City Council might support this. CW to approach the Mayor.

Action: CW

9. Trees

Watering the new sequoia trees in Palace Field was difficult; RB offered to help DN, and also to ask the Palace gardener for assistance.

This could also offer a photo / publicity opportunity.

Action: CW/RB/DN

10. Programme

CW reported that the visit from members of the Bridgwater Civic Society was confirmed for 8th July, with Roger leading a tour of the city in the afternoon followed by a supper. CW would arrange an inexpensive meal at one of the local eateries.

Action: CW

11. Treasurer's Report

RA circulated spreadsheets and added:

- i. that the Society was in credit;
- ii. income from investments had gone up by 10% in the last 8 months;
- iii. he was working on the return for Gift Aid;
- iv. he was also preparing the Charities Commission return. CW to help with some of the queries.
- v. CW asked if it would be possible to prepare projections for the coming year in order to plan activities and expenditure. RA agreed to do this.

Action: RA

12. Any Other Business

- i. **RC** asked if anyone had attended the public meeting on the future of the former prison at Shepton Mallet? He would keep the committee informed of further dates.ⁱⁱ
- ii. **RB** raised the issue of speeding traffic and agreed to approach John Osman of SCC re speed monitors.

13. Date of the next Meeting - 11th August 2pm at Pickwicks

ⁱ I have joined as an Individual Member – it is only £10 pa

ⁱⁱ this will be on 14th July at 12o/c

**Wells Civic Society Committee Meeting
Pickwicks, Tuesday 11th August 2015**

Present - Chris Winter,, Graham Barrow, Adrian l'Anson, Ray Bennett,
Philip Welch, John Rackham, Roger Cookman, Clare Blackmore,
Guest – Andrew Fawcett (was welcomed and agreed to contribute)

1. **Apologies**, Rodney Angel, Rod Hudsmith, Patrick Brown
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** - Agreed and signed.
3. **Matters Arising** – it was agreed that there was nothing to discuss.
4. **Chair's Report**

David Nasmyth – CW reported that David had died and wished to put on record his work over many years for the Society. There was a discussion about whether the Society should have a continuing memorial, Wells in Bloom, St Cuthberts and possibly something associated with schools. Members were asked to consider what they felt may be appropriate.

Newsletter – It was agreed that 400 be printed at a cost of £138.00

Bridgwater Society – We were pleased with the day and thank you to Roger for his help pointing out Wells' riches. The evening meal at BEAH was an excellent finish to a good visit. Who else can we invite?

HCCA – CW is joining in her own name as opposed to the Society being a Member due to costs. RC said he would continue to pass anything to CW should it be sent to him.

Heritage Open Day – 12th September / we are displaying millennium photographs in the Town Hall. Julia Wood is present, CB, AA, RB said that they would help on the day. There was concern about where the original CD was kept, is it still with John Jessop/ **CW** to find out.

Market Stall Wednesday 16th September – CB, AA, GB, RB, CW & JR all agreed to help that day. Society mugs were for sale and to be given free to New Members signed on the day. AF asked about Corporate Members, we only have three – how about a Welcoming Pack to try and convince Waitrose/Weatherspoons and even the Cathedral!!

5. **Treasurers Report** – It was confirmed that our 2014 financial records have been recorded on the Charity Commission website.

JR also said that he would look again at whether we can replace standing orders with direct debits.

6. **Planning Report** - GB asked that the turning circle in drive at 21 Tor Street be refused.

Ritchie House – to respond to complaints the height of roof has been Dropped by 2m and there is to be a lower height for the students accommodation. There has been a change in materials used and a very modern timber cladding is being used.

Tesco – expansion site to be turned into 32 retirement homes, the Culvert will also be diverted.

Elm Close – re-applied for same number of houses. Gladman Ltd have applied, Wrong in principle/wrong in detail!!

EMI Club and Co-Op – what is happening? Apparently Roy Worskett prepared a study of the Co-op some 10 years ago showing an arcade in the old store. **RB** said he would look into this. GB felt that the Councils don't look at planning applications properly.

Plaques – PW reports that Acrylic plaques are good quality, have a metal base and invisible fixing at the back on the metal base. Apparently Bridgewater are using acrylic plaques and it was suggested that we should look at what they are like before we proceed further.

Edgar Wright – currently lives in Los Angeles and has no plans to return in the near future. Steve Jackson, HM at Blue School is happy to put up the plaque in the school premises.

There were other possible candidates for plaques, Julie Romeo at Earthcraft (been going 39 years).

7. **Environment** – Little activity, Shaun Plenty (Bridgewater College) has started work down by the cricket club – tidying up the Wells waterways.
8. **Membership** – our renewals will be due September/October. AF, CB & CW agreed to meet to discuss a strategy to increase corporate membership.
9. **Local Listings/Programme** - nothing to report
10. **AOB** – It was agreed that a representative of WCS should attend City Council committee meeting whenever possible.
11. **Date of the next meeting: 13th October 2015 at Pickwick's at 2pm**

October 2015

Wells Civic Society Committee Meeting
Pickwicks, 13th October 2015

Present – Chris Winter, Adrian l’Anson, Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett, Patrick Brown Clare Blackmore, Roger Cookman, John Rackham, Philip Welch

1. **Apologies** – Rod Angel, Rod Hudsmith & Andrew Fawcett
2. **Minutes of last meeting** – these were altered in 4 places and will be signed at the next meeting.
3. **Matters Arising** – there were none.
4. **Chair’s Report – CW** will speak to Virginia Nasmyth about a memorial to David. Virginia offered to help tomorrow registering Members.
New trees at Palace field require some strimming to clear weeds from base, JR to attend.
Market Stall – Was deemed a success, more Members gained. Also thought we should try and push for e-mail addresses from all Members, easier communications and far cheaper.
Fone Shop – Contact Robin Palmer at Mendip and get action. Also approach Wells Journal.
Civic Voice Convention – 23rd/24th October; RC does not need to keep CW posted as she is now a Member.
3rd December 2015 – Christmas Shopping Evening till 8.30pm. Christmas Window competition sponsored by WCS; £100 donation to Chamber of Commerce agreed towards costs of the event.
5. **Planning – AA& GB** to attend Public Enquiry re local Plan and also to ensure that Society report its view.
21 Tor Street – turning circle refused
Tesco site – Planning permission refused for 32 retirement homes.
6. **Environment** – RH be asked to correspond with County Council and Wells Journal about the poor condition of some of Wells’ roads. Letter to be sent by him in his own right as opposed to VP of Civic Society.
Stream project- RB reports Shaun Plenty (Bridgwater College) is having difficulty with 2 large trees – RB not sure whether trees are to be removed or just clipped.
7. **Treasurers Report** – circulated by email but in the absence of RA nothing was discussed.
8. **Neighbourhood Plan** – a Housing Needs Survey has been requested for Wells, this is also the case with St Cuthbert Out’s plan. There was comment that the Wells Council need to be more involved. CW has stood down from the Steering Group.
9. **Plaques** – Still waiting for wording approval (Blue Plaque) from Mark Tobin at the Swan Hotel.
Mark difficult to contact at the moment as very busy.
Edgar Wright – PW has spoken to Steve Jackson (Blue School) who is still keen to display a plaque at the school. Wright is unlikely to be in the UK in the near future.
Crown Hotel – Stuart Cursley and Adrian Lawrence are also difficult to contact and PW will contact Sara Blair to try and move forward.
Basil Powell Shoe Shop– agreed wording for an indoor plaque with Robert Powell.

Wells mosaic – to be between Bishop’s Eye and entrance to the Palace. PW has spoken to Paul Lewis (Church Commissioners) and he did not reject the idea nor did he give his complete approval. City Council has indicated that they may donate £500 to the project. There is a delay as the Church Commission wish to see a copy of the final design from the artist Ruth, she however does not have the necessary software and asks that this be made available. She thinks that it is perhaps 100 hours work!! The Lions are prepared to allocate her £200 and PW asks whether we can help? This was discussed and a possible loan was considered of perhaps £1,000 as pump priming, this was not sanctioned at the meeting. More information about the availability of the software is needed.

10. **Membership** – 5 new Members have come from the Heritage Open Day and the Market Stall. CB has also had some Business Cards printed at her own expense. They are excellent and we should all have a few.
11. **Trees** – who is going to take over the work previously done by David Nasmyth? Anybody interested? We were not sure how the Trees in Union Street Car Park were progressing, your observations please at the November meeting.
12. **Local Listings/Programme** – Nothing to report
13. **AOB – RB** concerned about speeding on City Roads. Contact Jeff Bunting at County Council and find out simplest and cheapest way to make improvements.
Tourist Office: there are several options currently being considered.
Bishop's Barn: slow steady progress is being made.
Vacancy left by Co-Op – RB keen to see an Arcade; contact the agents - Four Square
SBPT – Meeting at Court Farm, Wookey 25th October
CW advises we need a new Auditor.
14. **Next Meeting** – Pickwicks / 2.00pm 10th November 2015

2nd November 2015

Wells Civic Society Committee Meeting Tuesday 10th November 2015

Present – Chris Winter, Adrian l’Anson, Patrick Brown, Clare Blackmore, Andrew Fawcett, John Rackham and Philip Welch.

Apologies: – Rodney Angel, Graham Barrow, Ray Bennett, Rod Hudsmith.

Minutes of last two meetings – both were approved and signed.

Matters Arising – there were none.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Unfortunately JR had only copied one of the pages that RA had sent him so the circulated Reports were incomplete. The other pages will be added to the Report and attached to these minutes.
- Some concern was expressed about the reporting of the accounts. Although CW was sure that the Society is currently solvent, it would be helpful to have a clear idea of projected income and expenditure so that future projects and other spending can be planned. This is especially so as income from membership fees is reducing.
- Gift Aid returns are proving difficult to sort out, however we are still well within the timescale.

We need an Auditor quickly as our year end has passed and the Accounts should be available for the AGM in January.

Any ideas? Please bring them to the next Committee meeting.

Planning Report:

- AIA reported that the enquiry for 220 new houses towards Haybridge is coming up and he will attend the enquiry and put his personal view (which he hoped coincided with the Society’s View) forward rather than the Society’s. This will avoid unnecessary questioning by the Appellant which could prove embarrassing if he was officially giving the Society’s view. Further advices in due course; AIA feels that despite Mendip’s refusal an appeal may be upheld.
- Neighbourhood Plan – progressing slowly. City Council Members still very luke warm about the Plan and also don’t provide suitable feedback to the whole Council. Council still not paying for anything, and have decided not to renew the contract of the Advisor, Stuart Todd, which would be funded by the *Locality* grant. Peter Malarby, former Council Solicitor (Bucks) has been co-opted onto the Steering Group and is very helpful. The Housing Needs Survey is unlikely to be done as Council do not agree with the need for it.
- Also concern there may be developments infringing on the Palace Deer Park!!
- Park Cottage – next door to Bishop’s Barn, planning to extend house, approx 1/3rd bigger. AIA happy with plans etc.
- 3a Lovers Walk – permission required for additional flat roof building. AIA is happy with plans etc.
- Car Wash Opposite Tesco – application to replace with 2 retail shops (site owned by Tincknell) – once again AIA happy in principle.
- Shoon Building, Southover – application for another builders’ merchant (site owned by Chris Chapman) AIA happy in principle.
- New Street – long running saga of unsightly planking in the wall north of Sadler Street junction; PW will contact Carter Jonas if no action this month as they had promised to make suitable changes this year.
- Rugatino – also concern that waste bins are too often left in the Brown’s Gate.
- former EMI Building, Glastonbury Road – Steve Wilson asking for permission for a soft play area in this building – good idea but no parking so how practical especially where physically disadvantaged kids are concerned.

Environment:

- PW makes the suggestion that Trees could come under Environment portfolio; there was some concern that a good knowledge of trees will be required and would those currently reporting on the environment (RA & RH) be happy to add Trees to their portfolio?
- JR yet to strim round Boyne Memorial trees in Palace Fields.
- Union Street Car Park – Trees are looking good, one might need attention, CW to deal with this.
- Thank you to both RB and RH for their continuing efforts particularly with the Co-op site and the roads and Kebab sign. Regarding the Co-op it was felt that as a Society we have done all that we could reasonably be expected to in passing the 1988 report to the Agents. It is unlikely that the Society could influence retailers to trade on the site as an Arcade.

Plaques:

- Plaque has been presented to Basil Powell's Shoe Shop. There was a Wells Journal article but no picture. Hopefully Robert Powell may write a follow up for the Journal and include a photograph.
- Other candidates for indoor plaques are Thatcher's and the Wells Film Centre.
- The outdoor plaque at the Blue School (Edgar Wright) is progressing. PW is looking at Swan Hotel plaques for shape/design/size etc to ensure our plaques will receive Council approval.
- Looking at both the Swan and Crown hotel – difficulty making progress as everybody so busy. Should receive by next meeting names of those famous people who have stayed at the Crown or had a meal in the Crown.
- Wells in Mosaic (set up as a Charity) – See attached note re Adobe Software required. Discussion took place re what help we could give; the proposal seems to be that Artist can hire the software for approx £20 per month for perhaps 2 years. It was thought that if we paid £250 up front (a years rental) this would show our support and we understand that the Lions Club are likely to make a payment of £200. We need a project plan with timescales/costs/approval (as will the Bishop's Palace/Church Commissioners/City Council etc) that we are happy with before releasing £250.

Membership – CB reported that she had received no response from up to 20 Members regarding their subscription; the names were read out and CB was told some had died, others moved away, some were very frail etc. It was agreed that we need to put some effort into increasing our Membership.

Local Listings – nothing to report.

Programme Report – Christmas Meeting: it was decided that wine, red & white, and fruit juice should be available at £2.00 for a glass of wine. CW will consult Richard Green about bread or biscuits or both, and source the wine, juice and glasses.

Chair's Report – These comments should be read in conjunction with the Committee Reports.

- Rod Hudsmith's 1980s Newsletters: if we had them transferred to a CD we could then have some or all on our website, this was considered a positive idea. Scanning to a cd will cost £60 +vat; this was agreed.
- Corporate Members – Possible new application form attached for your perusal, please agree or provide alternatives at the next Committee meeting.
- Historic Cathedral Cities Alliance – CW is now part of the Planning Group and will help to organise a conference in March 2016.
- Civic Voice – Numerous presentations at their Conference. CW thought that content very positive for us, lots of ideas to help improve our Society. Could invite Freddie Gick (Chairman) to talk to our Society on the way forward. Lottery Grants available between £500 and £100,000; we might match some project ideas to the grant criteria. When looking at projects we need to include local business to help share the load and potentially benefit from work generated. This might also increase our Corporate Membership.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is keen on funding which engages people in heritage – especially the young; how can we make this happen?
- Vicars Close – needs expensive renovation; Cathedral currently looking at ways forward. Can any of the houses be converted into permanent museums showing the houses as they might have been centuries ago, can we be involved and if so what do we bring to the project?

There is much to discuss; a separate meeting needs to be set up to take some of these issues further. CW will suggest some dates.

Any Other Business:

- War Memorials recording: can we help, if so what is the first step? If this is something that we can get involved with it would be sensible to try and work with the British Legion. It was thought Museum may have details of all local War Memorials.
- Christmas Window Display competition – CW will need help judging these at the end of the month.
- Premier Inn – there is a proposal for the site opposite Morrison's; Committee felt that this was a positive move for Wells¹.

Date of the next meeting 8th December 2pm at Pickwicks

JR 11th November 2015

¹ A meeting is being arranged for a presentation re this proposal. Let me know if you'd like to come along CW

Wells Civic Society Committee Meeting Pickwicks, Tuesday 8th December 2015

Present – Chris Winter, Ray Bennett, Patrick Brown, Graham Barrow, Roger Cookman, John Rackham & Philip Welch.

Apologies – Rodney Angel, Clare Blackmore, Adrian l'Anson & Rod Hudsmith.

Minutes of Last Meeting – These were approved subject to adding Roger Cookman to Apologies.

Matters Arising –there were none.

Chair's Report

Adding to her Report – Pleased with new Corporate Members – it was suggested that we have a short meeting with all Corporate Members before the February meeting in 2016 to see how we could help their businesses and vice versa. Sponsor Meetings etc. Logos might also be added to the website. CW to ask Steve Wilson if this is possible.

Good News with the Fone Shop, well done to our Chair!! Good to thank Mendip, also we should say thanks to the shop.¹

It was agreed that the Society approved of the Premier Inn planning proposal. It was noted that the City Council City Centre & Tourism Forum are prioritising the website and touch screens in the Town Hall. Concern was expressed that nobody appreciated that car parks were being closed whilst recent filming took place – who was responsible and why was no action taken? Letter to be sent to Town Clerk (or a visit) to express concern; there could have been signage or notification via the Wells Journal. Also it would be useful to know what happens to the money raised from the filming .

Bluebird Care also using rooms in Town Hall.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to offer a box of chocolates to Marilyn Cattell for reviewing the accounts for the AGM.

Christmas Shopping Evening – a little disappointing but a worthwhile start. The Street event was organised by the Town Council and was a very successful event helped by the road closure. 10 weeks notice is required for road closure, must remember to start earlier next year.

Environment Report- Thanks were expressed for **RH's** continuing efforts, although it was agreed that issues should be discussed by the committee before representation was made to MDC.

Police and Community Together (PACT): - **RB** has asked that he be provided with a breakdown of the traffic in St. Thomas' street.

RB also investigating how Shaun Plenty is getting on with cleaning some of the Wells waterways.

Planning Report – It was confirmed that the Planning team (**GB, PB & AIA**) had the Committee's authority to give the Society's views on Planning to Mendip if necessary (due to time constraints) without reference to the Committee, although normally there would be discussion at the Committee meeting and a consensus reached.

Neighbourhood Plan – very slow progress and lack of commitment from the City Council. Housing Needs Survey: (more 1/2 bed houses required) survey still a tricky subject, Council not keen and reluctant to spend money even if a Grant covers most of the cost. Planning cannot refuse 5 bed houses unless there is evidence stating otherwise.

CW thanked **GB** and **AIA** for their tireless efforts in trying to deliver the Neighbourhood Plan.

Plaque Report – It was confirmed that the Society have agreed to give Ruth Ames-White a cheque for £250 to cover rental of the necessary software to start the Wells in Mosaic project. A photo opportunity has been set up for Saturday 12th December on site for an article in the Journal. Likely cost £25,000 but keen to raise much more so that funds available in the future maintenance. A charitable trust is likely to be set up manage the project and ongoing maintenance.

Treasurer's Report – Spreadsheets received from RA had been circulated. Accounts for y/e Sept 2015 currently with Marilyn Cattell for review prior to AGM in January. Comments in RA's report re monies agreed for plaques were unclear; to be clarified.

¹ I called in the next day to do this CW

Programme Report – 2016/17 yet to be arranged. Urgent need for someone to take on this job. Two suggestions for speakers:- Barry Rose, ex St Paul's Organist and someone from the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen.

Membership Report – Two new Corporate Members, Beech Tyldesley and Pilgrim Financial Planning and a couple more ordinary members. For future meetings it was suggested that where Members have an e-mail that we should remind them each month a week /10 days before each meeting. **PB** would pass to **CB** the name of a member who had told him he would not be renewing his membership due to advancing age.

Local Listings – nothing to report.

Any Other Business

Bishop's Barn: **PB** reported - meeting with Mendip 23rd December. Concern about how the Barn will be able to generate income in the future. Improvements can probably be made and money found to do this but keeping it going through the years is another matter. Heating being a big problem. The Play Area plans have been agreed.

Former Co-op: **RB** keen to pursue arcade concept, little support was forthcoming as no successful arcades appear to exist.

Monterey House, St. Thomas Street: application for change of use to Nursing Home, **GB** has seen neighbours but had to tell them that there were no planning reasons why the application should be refused.

PW reported that there would be a gala night for the new Dad's Army film on 5th Feb in aid of the Dementia Awareness project in Wells. Ticket £12.50 from **PW**.

AGM – Brief reports were requested to summarise each topic for the year; to **JR** by 15th December. **JR** will send last year's AGM minutes to all committee members. Please also inform **JR** if you are prepared to stand again on the Committee, no later than 15th Dec.

Nomination papers and the Annual Report, and AGM agenda will be circulated by e-mail where possible, with the remainder delivered by hand by members of the committee.

Members will be asked to check / or give their email addresses at the evening meeting.

Bridgwater CS has asked **JR** to arrange a trip to the Bishop's Palace in June/July 2016.

Date of next Meeting - 2pm 12th January 2016 at Pickwicks.

9th December 2015