

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 1st
SEPTEMBER 2009**

PRESENT: Cllr T Robbins (Chairman)
Cllrs D Anderson, C Borastero, M Brandon,
J North, C Price and H Siggs.

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

09/42F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The apology from Cllr Kennedy was noted.

09/043F FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Committee received the financial reports for July and August which had been scrutinised and found to be satisfactory:

(i) Business Rate Deferral

The opportunity to defer payment of the substantial increase in business rates following the withdrawal of transitional relief had now been confirmed and the Council's interest had been registered. A lengthy discussion then ensued at the conclusion of which it was agreed that the opportunity to defer should be taken and that a decision on budgets and the use of reserves or increase in the precept to meet such additional expense would be made at the appropriate time.

(ii) Harry Patch funeral costs

Members noted with approval that the costs incurred by the Council had been contained well within £800 and they recorded their thanks to all the Council staff who had worked so hard prior to the event and on the day.

(iii) Audit arrangements

It was confirmed that the return had been sent to the external auditors whose response was awaited.

09/044F REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

(i) Council properties

Members noted that 1 Priory Road would be opening soon. The redecoration of the Town Hall was proceeding well and the Council Chamber works would be undertaken in November.

(ii) Finance

Members received the report of the working group which had met during August.

(iii) Policies

Cllr Siggs confirmed he would work with the Town Clerk on matters raised by the finance group.

09/045F REPORTS ON TELEPHONE AND IT PROVISION

Members received the two reports and a lengthy discussion followed. They wished to be satisfied as to the viability of the company proposed to be contracting with and to be aware of the terms of any contract. It was eventually **recommended** that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr North be given delegated authority to proceed with the improvements once they were satisfied as to the matters raised in discussion.