

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD**  
**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012**  
**AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: T Robbins (Chairman); D Unwin (The Mayor);  
C Price (Deputy-Mayor); D Anderson; J North.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck.

**12/50F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllr. S Davies; M Brandon; T Butt Philip.  
Admin. & IT Officer: C Pritchard-Williams.

**12/51F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
None. See 12/59F.

**12/52F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2012**  
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

**12/53F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
None present.

**12/54F FINANCIAL REPORT**  
The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for April 2012 were proposed, seconded and approved.

**12/55F TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2011-12 AND COMPLETE THE ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN**

- i. The report from the Internal Auditor was received and recommendation noted; action already in progress.
- ii. The completed Section 1 of the Annual Audit Return was considered; this was agreed to be a true presentation of the financial position of the Council.
- iii. The Annual Governance Statements, Section 2 of the Audit Return, were considered; it was agreed that these be approved.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the following be recommended to Council:

**RECOMMENDED**

**Annual Audit Return for the year ending 2011-12:**

**To approve and sign the Accounting Statements.**

**To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement.**

**12/56F A BOARDS SCHEME**  
To consider fees and delegation arrangements.  
The Committee had been asked to consider the fee to be charged; various options and ways of introducing the scheme were discussed. The costs would be in officer time and production of the sticker (permit) but are difficult to predict. After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr North, seconded by Cllr Unwin and agreed, to set an initial fee of £50; to be monitored and then reviewed after the first eight months, ready for the second year.

**12/57F CROWN COURT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME** To approve first phase of works.  
£50,000 was requested to initiate all the works submitted to the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012.  
It was acknowledged that DDA compliance is a legal requirement and must be done; while there were no objections in principle, it was agreed that insufficient

information was available to the committee regarding the works towards DDA compliance and roof void insulation.

After discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed that £15,000 be released to obtain drawings and plans and for similar matters related to the development of the Crown Court only.

The Committee felt that more information would be needed in order to release a larger amount of money. The Committee requested a presentation of relevant information and comparative quotes regarding the DDA compliance and roof void insulation proposals.

**12/58F LAND REGISTRY**

To consider costs.

The Town Clerk reported on the process of registering the Council's properties; legal costs were approved.

**12/59F SKATEBOARD PARK**

Cllrs North and Unwin (the Mayor) each declared a personal interest as members of Mendip District Council.

- i. The RFO reported a meeting with MDC and stakeholders to agree new vehicular access for maintenance and emergency vehicles to the Skatepark and Lovers Walk. The Town Clerk was asked to obtain confirmation in writing, to clarify the status of the arrangements during construction work, and that the developer would fund any costs involved.
- ii. The Town Clerk and RFO reported on the condition of the Skatepark ramps and the maintenance and funding arrangements. An estimate for repair costs was received and quotes are being obtained; some funds are available in the budget, the Committee discussed options and possible funding streams.

**12/60F PROVISION OF SIGNS**

DPP Alcohol Consumption Restriction Order (LG & Rating Act 1997 S.31).

The position of signs is being looked into in consultation with the Police, with a view to reducing sign clutter where possible.

**12/61F WEBSITE** Up-date.

The design is progressing well; a print-out of the front page design was well received. Councillors are please to have their new e-mail addresses. Any Councillor requiring more information or assistance with the new e-mail address should contact the Admin & IT Assistant at the office.

**12/62F REPORT ON STORM DAMAGE**

The RFO and Town Hall Manager were thanked for their quick actions and hard work the Sunday morning of the recent severe storms. Builders' costs and staff overtime were kept to a minimum; all damage has been dealt with.

**12/63F ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT**

- i. Cllr North: Licensing of Tables and Chairs on pavements.  
Answered by Cllr Robbins: SCC is preparing legal work.
- ii. Cllr North: Success of Wells Rugby Club.  
Answered by the Mayor: A celebration and reception was held on May Day; trophy now on display in the Town Hall vestibule central cabinet.
- iii. Lead stolen from roof of Town Hall buildings has been replaced; an insurance claim is in progress.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm**