

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY
8th NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Robbins (Chairman); J North (Vice Chairman);
D Unwin; C Price; G Wilson; D Anderson; D Unwin.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck.
Cllr N Kennedy.

12/121F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M Brandon (The Mayor); T Butt Philip (Deputy-Mayor).

12/122F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. Unwin and North declared interests as members of Mendip District Council in item 8. Skate Park up-date.

12/123F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th October 2012

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

12/124F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None present.

12/125F FINANCIAL REPORT To receive the financial reports for October 2012:

The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for October 2012 were proposed, seconded and approved.

12/126F CEMETERY LODGE ROOF REPAIRS

To receive recommendation from Cemetery and Open Spaces Committee and approve quote:

The RFO gave a report and answered questions. The roof is 120 years old so accurate quotation is difficult. The Chairman and Town Clerk had concerns regarding the Council's duty of care to staff and to the public. The selected quote was proposed, seconded and approved.

12/127F BUDGET

To consider draft Budget for 2013-14:

The RFO presented an initial draft budget in detail; the draft would result in a small percentage increase to the Council Tax. Questions were then taken and items discussed; various small additional increases were suggested. Councillors were asked to contact the RFO if they had any further questions or matters to raise. The RFO reported on the Capital Receipt Fund.

It will not be possible to calculate Council Tax for a band D property until figures are received from Mendip District Council, who in turn are awaiting release of information from central government, expected mid-December.

It was noted that, following the adoption of the Committee Delegation Scheme by City Council 25th October 2012, budget headings are now out of alignment with the Committee structure; in the interests of clarity the layout of the monthly Financial Report will be re-set from 1st April 2013 to reflect the Committee structure.

In conclusion the RFO was asked to take Councillors' comments into consideration and return a revised draft Budget and Precept recommendation to the next meeting.

The RFO was thanked for all his hard work.
(Cllr North left the meeting.)

12/128F SKATEPARK up-date:

(Cllr Unwin spoke only to ask questions, he took no part in the discussion or vote.)

A report from the Town Clerk was received concerning:

- i. transfer of the site from Somerset County Council
- ii. funding for the refurbishment project
- iii. responsibility for maintenance and safety inspections

The report was approved.

12/129F TOWN TWINNING

30th Anniversary of twinning with Bad Durkheim (2013):

It was agreed to ask the Council's representative to the Town Twinning Association (Cllr Butt Philip), together with two nominated Councillors (Cllrs Unwin and Kennedy) to return to the next meeting with a proposal and costs.

112/130F ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Concern regarding timing of the Court Room development work and events taking place in the Town Hall - referred to the Town Clerk and Town Hall Manager for consultation.
- ii. A revised draft Press and Media Policy was circulated for consideration at the next meeting.
- iii. A meeting with MDC will be held early in 2013 to discuss renewal of the licence for the May and November Fairs.
- iv. The SCC Community Enablement Fund Bid has been submitted and is being progressed; a meeting is to be held with the Highways Department to agree the working details, to be reported to the Cemetery and Open Spaces Committee in December.

12/131F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 12th December at 7.00pm