

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON WEDNESDAY
12th DECEMBER 2012 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Robbins (Chairman); J North (Vice Chairman);
M Brandon (The Mayor); T Butt Philip (Deputy-Mayor); C Price;
G Wilson; D Anderson.

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

12/132F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr D Unwin.

12/133F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr North declared a personal interest as member of Mendip District Council in item 7ii. S106 monies.

12/134F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th November 2012
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed. Ref.112/130F: The Crown Court development work schedule is being specified to allow for existing bookings.

12/135F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None present.

12/136F FINANCIAL REPORT To receive the financial reports for November 2012: The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for November 2012 were proposed, seconded and approved.

12/137F GRANT APPLICATION to consider application from:
Mendip Community Transport (Local Government & Rating Act 1997 S.26-29)
It was proposed, seconded and agreed that £500 would be added to the budget for 2013-14, to be granted to Mendip Community Transport in April 2013, in support of the costs of the service.

12/138F FUNDING RECEIPTS to report
The Finance and Open Spaces Officer reported:
i. SCC Community Enablement Fund
The grant has been approved; a supplementary bid has been submitted for training and to take on additional reactive highways functions.
ii. MDC S.106 monies
Funding for enhancements at the Skate Park has been made available by Mendip District Council from some recovered Section 106 money attached to a past Planning consent in the City; the funds have to be spent by the end of February. Clearance work at the Skate Park has already been done and the refurbishment is progressing, together with additional funding from Wells Action and the Rotary Club.

12/139F BUDGET
To consider draft Budget for 2013-14
The Chairman introduced this item, addressing comments from the previous meeting. The Chairman and Finance Officer reported that MDC and City Council are awaiting information to cascade down from Government; therefore it is not possible at present to make accurate Precept and Council Tax calculations. The Chairman emphasised that the recommendation to Council would be to accept a

draft budget; confirmation of the Precept request will be deferred until January to allow for any adjustments; this was agreed.

The Finance Officer presented the revised budget, incorporating changes requested at the previous meeting.

There was careful and detailed discussion of various elements of the budget. Some contracted payments were commented on; the Town Clerk gave legal advice.

The Public Works Loan was reviewed; the Capital reserve was discussed; Council reserves were reviewed and approved.

In conclusion the following proposals were made:

- i. Proposal to increase the budget for gas and electricity, not seconded.
- ii. Proposal to increase the budget for Christmas lights, seconded, put to the vote; the majority were not in favour, therefore the motion was not carried.
- iii. Proposal to let the budget for the contracted payment to the Blue School stand; seconded, voted and carried.
- iv. Proposal to recommend the Budget to Council as presented; seconded, voted and carried.

RECOMMENDED

To approve the Budget for 2013-14 as presented, to be returned to Council in January for adjustment following any new information.

12/140F TOWN TWINNING

30th Anniversary of twinning with Bad Durkheim (2013)

The Council representative to the Twinning Association (Cllr Butt Philip) had been away; he would report to the next meeting.

12/141F PRESS AND MEDIA POLICY

To consider revised draft for recommendation to Council: Approved.

RECOMMENDED

To adopt the revised Press and Media Policy

12/142F ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Price: a. Concerns regarding condition of Tor Furlong
b. Concerns regarding clearance of ivy on Allotments wall
- ii. Cllr North: Query regarding busking permits

12/143F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 10th January 2013 at 7.00pm