

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY
11th APRIL 2013 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Robbins (Chairman); M Brandon (The Mayor); C Price;
G Wilson; D Anderson; D Unwin.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck.
Cllr. H Siggs.

13/31F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
J North (Vice Chairman); T Butt Philip (Deputy-Mayor).

13/32F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None. See 13/36F and 13/37F.

13/33F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th March 2013
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

13/34F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
None present.

13/35F FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. To receive the financial reports for March 2013 and approve the annual accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013:
The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for March 2013 were proposed, seconded and approved. The RFO reported the end of year tax reporting and financial shut down had taken place; the accounts had been reset for the new financial year to show budgets under the relevant headings. The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 were proposed, seconded and approved.
- ii. To report annual audit arrangements:
The Internal audit is due to take place shortly. The annual return information has been received from the External Auditor; the return is due for completion by the end of June.
- iii. To report Annual Insurance review and renewal:
The insurance cover has been reviewed and comparative quotes taken. It has been found best to remain with the existing provider.

13/36F COURT ROOM DEVELOPMENT
To consider quotes:
Due to the confidential nature of the business to be considered, involving contractors' data, it was proposed by the Chairman that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended, excluding the press and public: Resolved.
It was agreed that Cllr Siggs be invited to remain in the meeting to provide information.
Cllr. Unwin declared a personal and prejudicial interest as close associate of a contractor, and left the meeting. The Chairman asked members to make any declarations of interests, before proceeding with the item.
Members had plans of the project, and details of the specification, before them.
Cllr Siggs was thanked for all his work on the project.
Quotes were presented and discussed; after careful consideration a quote was proposed, seconded, put to the vote and approved. The Officers were authorised to proceed with the project.

- 13/37F FUNDING REQUEST**
Bishops Barn and Recreation Ground Trust, for heritage appraisal:
Cllr Siggs declared an interest as a member of Mendip District Council; he provided information about the Trust and the proposed appraisal and then left the meeting.
Members took the view that the future of the Barn and Recreation Ground is clearly a matter of local concern; a donation of £1,000 was proposed, to assist the appraisal to take place. The committee wished to work in partnership with other groups to move the matter forward and this was felt to be a proportionate contribution. The proposal was seconded and agreed.
- 13/38F FUNDING RECEIPT**
To report receipt of funding from SCC Community Enablement Fund:
The RFO reported the grant has been received; the vehicle has been purchased, purchase of works equipment and arrangements for staff training are in hand.
- 13/39F MOAT WALK**
Proposal from Mendip District Council:
Ref. City Council meeting minute 13/34Ciii.: A request has been received from Mendip District Council asking if the City Council would take over the maintenance contract for Moat Walk. The contract is with the Church Commissioners, the owners of the land. Information was received and details discussed, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the matter be followed up and the City Council would be willing to take the contract on; the Officers were instructed to proceed.
- 13/40F MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**
The RFO reported that the post-installation inspection report for the Skatepark has been received; all the matters identified are in hand.
- 13/41F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 9th May 2013 at 7.00pm**