

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY
10TH OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.00PM**

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

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

13/88F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs: T Butt Philip (the Mayor).

13/89F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

13/90F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th September 2013
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

13/91F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Members of the Rotary Club spoke about the annual Reindeer Parade and presented information in support of the application at 13/92F.

13/92F FUNDING APPLICATION
Wells Rotary Club, hire of Reindeer (LGA S. 144/145)
Councillors discussed the application, having regard to the Council's Grant Criteria and assessment of the financial risks involved with the running of this event. The Town Clerk and RFO advised on the Criteria and the legal powers of Councils. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by a vote of six in favour, one against, that a grant of £500 be given towards the cost of hiring the Reindeer. It was further agreed that a condition be set stating that the published accounts for the event must show the £500 from the City Council is specifically for hire of the Reindeer. The Committee noted that there may be traders benefiting from the event who could be lobbied to make a contribution to the expenses.

13/93F FINANCIAL REPORT
The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked, prior to the meeting.
The accounts for September 2013 were proposed, seconded and approved.

13/94F ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT
To received the annual audit report on the accounts for the year 2012-13.
The RFO reported a clear report from the External Auditor. Items highlighted for consideration during the coming year will be brought before the next meeting.

13/95F COURT ROOM DEVELOPMENT Up-date
There has been some delay due to the drying time needed for the lime plaster required by MDC Conservation Officer. Final details are being finished in the new Bar this week. Downstairs the floor will be fitted as soon as the walls are sufficiently dry; then there should be about two weeks till completion (decorating). The committee agreed the Mayor should be asked to hold a formal opening event to which the public would be invited.
New layout arrangements for indoor markets were reported, having regard to access, and health and safety.

13/96F PROPERTY LEASES - up-date
Exclude the press and public:

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be considered, relating to contracts and legal matters, 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, to exclude the press and public: Resolved.
The RFO gave a progress report and answered questions.

13/97F MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

i. BUDGET

-A draft budget will be issued in advance of the next meeting.

-All Councillors are asked to send any input comments to the RFO as soon as possible.

-Committee Chairmen are asked to review the budgets relating to their committees and consult with the RFO where necessary.

ii. Tuesday 19th November the Recreation Ground (and Bishops Barn) Trust is due to receive the report from Beaufort Beachamp.

13/98F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 13th November 2013 at 7.00pm