

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY
13TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck.
Cllrs: Kennedy; Parkes; Siggs.

14/10F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr Robbins.

14/11F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr North declared a personal and non-prejudicial Interest as member of Mendip District Council, in 14/15F Public Toilets, and 14/21F property leases.

14/12F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2014
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

14/13F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Councillors not on the Committee were invited to speak as items arose.
It was agreed to vary the order on the agenda.

14/14F FINANCIAL REPORT To receive the financial reports for January 2014.
The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked, prior to the meeting.
The accounts for January 2014 were proposed, seconded and approved.
The Town Hall Manager was particularly thanked for his work in achieving remarkable lettings income for January.

14/15F PUBLIC TOILETS
To receive information from Mendip District Council and review the provision of services in Wells.
The service under review relates to the conveniences at Prices Road, Union Street and the Recreation Ground. The current ten year contract will expire at 30.06.14. MDC will then enter an annual contract with a provider for cleaning and general maintenance services; building repairs will not be included.
The City Council is invited to contribute in order to keep all three sites open.
Discussion centred around opening hours; the extent of the contracted services; how many toilet blocks it is necessary to provide in Wells; the importance for tourism.
It was agreed to sign up to the MDC proposal for a year, during which time plans for the future could be considered.

14/16F APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS
To consider the following applications:
i. Wells Scout Group camping equipment (S 137) £500 proposed, seconded and approved.
ii. Wells City Band new instrument (S137) £250 proposed, seconded and approved.
Members were in agreement that, as section 137 payments (LGA 1972) these would be commensurate with the benefit to parishioners.

- 14/17F LITTER BINS**
To consider provision of litter bins on footpaths.
It was proposed, seconded and agreed that with the agreement of MDC and SCC Highways, litter bins shall be purchased and installed in suitable locations to serve:
- i. Path from Sheldon Drive to Clements Close
 - ii. Path from Lethbridge Rd to Portway
 - iii. Area of the rose bed at Strawberry Way (between Glastonbury Rd and Sheldon Drive)
- (Cllr Price gave his apologies and left the meeting)
- 14/18F ELECTRONIC MAILING**
To review the mailing of Council agendas and papers, and make recommendations to Council.
Members received the report compiled by the Town Clerk; they would want to include an option that postal mailing could continue if requested by individual Councillors.
RECOMMENDED:
That the matter be considered by full Council.
- 14/19F RECEPTION SERVICES WORKING GROUP**
To receive the report of the Working Group and make recommendations to Council.
Cllr Wilson summarised the report, which had been circulated to members of the Council well in advance of the meeting, and answered questions.
Proposed: To recommend **that the Council adopt the report and instruct the Town Clerk and RFO to progress the plans, costings and staffing implications at 31.a.,b.:** Resolved.
RECOMMENDED –AS ABOVE.
- 14/20F COURT ROOM DEVELOPMENT**
- i. To receive the final budget statements: Noted.
 - ii. To make arrangements for the opening event:
The Mayor reported that an **open day is planned for Saturday 15th March.** He was asked to perform the opening and agreed to do so.
(The Mayor gave his apologies and left the meeting)
- 14/21F 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.
(Cllr Parkes left the room)
The Town Clerk and RFO gave a report to members.
(The Mayor gave his apologies and left the meeting)
- 14/22F MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**
Cllr North asked about supplying sandbags.
- 14/23F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 13TH MARCH 2014.**