

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL
ON THURSDAY 10TH APRIL 2014 AT 7.00PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: F White (Town Clerk); RFO: S Luck
Cllr Parkes
Cllr Siggs

14/40F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr D Anderson (Vice Chairman)

14/41F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Robbins declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in 14/45F1. as a patron of SWEDA.
Cllr North declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in 14/45F2. as Mendip District Council representative to the Sports Council.

14/42F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2014
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

14/43F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
None present

14/44F FINANCIAL REPORT
To receive the financial reports for March 2014:
The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked, prior to the meeting.
The accounts for March 2014 were proposed, seconded and approved.
The RFO gave his report following the end of year at 31/04/14; he presented the balance sheet and the list of ear-marked reserves.
The committee reviewed all reserves, noting that the supplement due with the Precept will increase the general reserve.
The end of year statements of accounts, balances and reserves were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.
The matter at 14/36F(13/03/2014) has been resolved within the approved budget.
A new two-year agreement has been negotiated with the electricity supplier at reduced cost. Cllr Briton asked that his request to consider eco-friendly suppliers next time, be noted.
The RFO was thanked for the very clear way in which the accounts are now presented, with all matters transparent and visible.

14/45F APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS
To consider the following applications:

1. SWEDA
£500 proposed, seconded and approved.
2. Wells City Football Club
£250 proposed, seconded and approved.
3. Wells Bookworms
£250 proposed, seconded and approved.

It was agreed to review the small grants criteria.

14/46F

POPPY BED DEDICATION

Cllr Parkes was invited to speak about the event.

A budget of £500 (hospitality) was proposed, seconded and approved.

14/47F

COURT ROOM DEVELOPMENT

The RFO reported information from the sound expert; acoustic boarding on certain walls was recommended and a range of costings provided.

After lengthy discussion it was decided that further advice should be sought. Cllr Siggs offered to contact the Somerset County Council sound assessor. The Mayor offered to contact the Cathedral School where there has recently been a similar project.

The Town Hall Manager will be asked if it is possible to provide details of which groups are finding difficulty with the room.

(Cllrs Parkes and Siggs left the room)

14/48F

PROPERTY LEASES Update

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: resolved.

The RFO reported the progress on rent reviews and lease renewals. A specific matter was put to the vote and approved, the RFO was instructed how to proceed.

14/49F

MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

- i. Small grants - referred to the next agenda.
- ii. Town Clerk reported the external audit will take place in early June; everything is in place, public notifications will go up immediately after Easter.
- iii. Town Hall rooms usage.
- iv. The RFO was particularly thanked for all his hard work over the last month while the Town Clerk was away.

14/50F

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 8th May 2014.