

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL
ON THURSDAY 12TH JUNE 2014 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Anderson (Vice Chairman); M Brandon; C Briton (the Mayor);
T Butt Philip; C Price; T Robbins (Chairman)

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

- 14/62F ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
The Mayor opened the meeting and invited nominations for Chairman.
Cllr Robbins was proposed, seconded, elected and took the Chair.
- 14/63F ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**
Cllr Anderson was proposed, seconded and elected as Vice-Chairman.
- 14/64F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllrs: J North; G Wilson (Deputy Mayor).
- 14/65F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the
Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012.
None declared.
- 14/66F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH MAY 2014**
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved
and signed.
- 14/67F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
None present.
- 14/68F FINANCIAL REPORT**
To receive financial reports for May 2014
The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked, prior
to the meeting.
The accounts for May 2014 were proposed, seconded, approved and
signed.
The RFO reported the VAT partial exemption calculation has been
independently checked; the council is below the threshold.
- 14/69F APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS**
i. Somerset Wildlife Trust (S 137)
£100 grant was proposed, seconded and approved, subject to the
following conditions:
That the Trust confirms there is a SWT barn owl project box in Wells and
provides the Council with what information they can about it.
Councillors agreed that the benefit to parishioners would be
commensurate with the expenditure.
(Note: Confirmed 13.06.14. Project information is on SWF website)

- 14/70F** **ACOUSTIC CONTROLS**
To consider quotes re: Court Room.
The RFO reported options and quotes. Further expert advice had been taken regarding acoustics, materials, and likely effectiveness for the required usage of the room. After lengthy consideration of the issues and factors involved, it was proposed, seconded and agreed to proceed with Option 3, hush-boarding, in a neutral colour to best match the existing.
- 14/71F** **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES**
Up-date from SCC on future provision of units in Wells.
Somerset County Council is asking parishes to consider taking on the management of the devices; the Open Spaces team are willing to accept the work. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to notify SCC that the City Council would accept this role.
- 14/72F** **SMALL GRANT CRITERIA**
To discuss the Council's grant-giving criteria.
The draft policy and information sheet were amended as attached, proposed seconded and approved. It was further agreed to create an application form.
- 14/73F** **ANNUAL REVIEWS**
To make arrangements for annual review of council procedures:
It was arranged that the Town Clerk and RFO shall work with Cllrs: Anderson, Butt Philip and Robbins to prepare all necessary draft documents for approval.
- 14/74F** **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.
Reports:
-The first rent review has concluded and new arrangements are in place.
-Second rent review is progressing.
-First lease renewal is now showing some progress; the Committee reaffirmed minute 14/59Fii and gave the RFO authority to engage a surveyor to assess dilapidations if necessary.
-Second lease renewal is in hand.
- 14/75F** **MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**
None.
- 14/76F** **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 10th July 2014.**