

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY 2016 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon; C Briton; J North; C Price(Vice-Chairman); T Robbins (Chairman); D Swain; G Wilson (the Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White.
RFO: S Luck
Cllrs: N Kennedy; R McKenzie

16/01F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr: H Siggs

16/02F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012.
None declared.

16/03F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2015
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

16/04F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- i. Cllr Kennedy spoke about the Wells Journal article on the closure of the Post Office. After considerable discussion the Town Clerk was directed to write an initial response to the press, in consultation with the Chairman and Mayor, clarifying the position of the City Council.
- ii. Councillors present spoke as items arose.

16/05F FINANCE REPORT
To receive the financial reports for December 2015:
The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for December 2015 were proposed, seconded and approved.

- i. Fun Fair up-date
- iii. The Town Clerk reported a response from the Fair ground operator agreeing to a meeting; a date is being arranged.
- iv. The RFO reported emergency expenditure on tree works following storm damage during the Christmas and New Year period. Despite regular independent inspections and safety checks the wet winters are affecting the larger trees. **RECOMMENDED:** that a budget be allocated and a five year plan introduced to reduce the height of trees bordering properties and roads; to include a proportion for re-planting:
- v. Proposed, seconded and **APPROVED.** Budget to be managed by City Centre and Open Spaces Committee.

16/06F COMMUNITY FUNDING

- i. Reindeer Parade
Request received from the Reindeer Parade committee for on-going funding. After consideration it was agreed that the group would have to apply each year, submitting accounts from the previous year's event. The committee noted that it is not appropriate for the Council to give grants where funds are then being given away elsewhere.

ii. Stoberry School

The crossing patrol has been appointed so £500 s137 payment will be made as agreed (15/73F).

County Cllr Osman has approved use of £1,000 from the earmarked fund held on behalf of SCC. The Committee agreed this will be made available for the project over the following three years.

16/07F

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

- i. The Town Clerk provided information on the annual governance reviews, financial risk assessment, internal financial controls and general risk assessment. Members are asked to contact her in advance of the next meeting if they require any further details or have any comments or queries.
- ii. Community Funding / Community Grants Criteria:
Copies of the current criteria were distributed; members are asked to consider these and prepare any comments together with views on criteria for the new discretionary grants budget.
Cllr North undertook to make an initial draft of the discretions criteria.

16/08F

MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

- i. Notification has been received of a Parish Council Tax Support Grant for 2016/ 17 of **£ 27,551.82**
- ii. Public Toilets
A condition report has been received, a site meeting will be held next week. Officers recommended that the building should be taken as a whole and this was approved.
- iii. Drainage problem in Princes Road car park has been corrected by MDC
- iv. The Town Hall has been approached by SCC and MDC regarding civil contingency planning. The Town Clerk was given approval for all arrangements made.

16/09F

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : 7pm Thursday 11th February 2016