

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: M Brandon; C Briton; J North (Deputy Mayor); C Price;  
T Robbins (Chairman); H Siggs; D Swain (Vice-Chairman)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F White  
RFO: S Luck  
Cllrs: N Kennedy; C Wride

**16/103F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Cllr G Wilson

**16/104F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012:  
Cllrs North and Siggs each declared a personal interest as member, in any matter relating to Mendip District Council and as trustee in any matter relating to Wells Recreation Ground Trust.

**16/105F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**  
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

**16/106F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
None present. Councillors present were involved in consideration of the draft budget at 16/108F.

**16/107F FINANCE REPORT**  
To receive the financial reports for October 2016  
The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting.  
The accounts for October 2016 were proposed, seconded and approved.

**16/108F DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR THE YEAR 2017-18**  
To consider draft budget proposals for the next council finance year and to prepare recommendations for Council:  
All councillors had been invited to submit comments prior to the meeting, committees had submitted budget requests; these were incorporated in the draft which was then circulated to all councillors. All councillors were encouraged to attend the meeting.  
The draft was examined in detail at the meeting; each budget head was presented by the RFO; The Chairman took questions and various items were discussed in depth.  
*110 Civic:* Allowances were agreed.  
*4134 Hospitality:* It was felt that clarification was needed regarding funding for hosting events held in conjunction with the Town Twinning Association; there was a suggestion that a specific amount might be allocated for this purpose. After discussion it was agreed that the hospitality budget can be used for funding such events on application to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It was proposed, seconded and agreed (two against) that each application will be considered on an individual basis. The hospitality budget to remain as it is.

*4210 Archives:* Further consideration regarding the paintings was referred back to the Archives and Assets Committee.

*4149/4150 Grants:* Take-up is poor; the Chairman reminded Councillors of their duty to make the community aware of the availability of these grants.

*4158 Recreation Ground Trust:* Noted: the process of appointing City Councillors onto WRGT has started; it was agreed to begin an earmarked reserve towards future grant support.

(Cllr Price left the meeting).

The RFO and Town Clerk were thanked for all their work towards producing the budget.

The following recommendation was proposed, seconded and resolved:

**RECOMMENDED:**

**To adopt the budget as presented; the precept to be fixed in December.**

**16/109F**

**MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

- i. Cllr North gave an up-date regarding the recent fire at the play area in the recreation ground.
- ii. Public toilets to be open for the Carnival on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

**16/110F**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING : 7pm WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016**