

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
3 members of the public

17/11F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None received

17/12F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012:
Cllrs North and Siggs each declared a personal interest as member, in any matter relating to Mendip District Council.
Cllr Siggs declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as member of the organising committee, in item 17/16Fii. Somerset Schools Folk Dance Festival.
Cllrs North and Siggs each declared a personal and prejudicial interest as members of Mendip District Council, in item 17/21Fii. To consider quotes for a service contract; they left the room during consideration of this matter.

17/13F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2017
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

17/14F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- i. A member of the public spoke about a sign at Bubwith Almshouses; matter referred to the Almshouses Trustees.
- ii. Representatives of Wells & Mendip Astronomers presented their project; ref. 17/16F i. Community Funding Application.

17/15F FINANCE REPORT
To receive the financial reports for January 2017

- i. The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for January 2017 were proposed, seconded and approved.
- ii. Tourism Grant Detailed accounts have been supplied by Wells and Mendip Museum/VIS; the grant of £3,000 budgeted for the year 2016-17 was proposed, seconded and approved for payment.
- iii. Stoberry School. A progress report was received. It was agreed they retain the funds for the specified purpose for the time being, the situation to be reviewed again in September.
- iv. Insurance The RFO reported from the annual review meeting with the Council's insurer. It was agreed to proceed with the three-year term renewal. It was agreed to proceed with the independent valuation of properties.

17/16F COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- i. Wells & Mendip Astronomers: £500 proposed, seconded and approved, subject to conditions:
 - a. Ask that the organisers attempt to widen the scope to involve other

- local schools this time.
- b. An alternative source of sponsorship should be sought in future.
- ii. Somerset Schools Folk Dance Festival: Use of room at the Town Hall free of charge for hospitality after the event; proposed, seconded and approved.
- iii. Wells Food Bank & Furniture Storehouse Project: £500 discretionary grant for three years, proposed, seconded and agreed.
- A report to be made at the end of each year, for the committee to review the grant.
 - The organisers to be invited to make a presentation to full Council to increase awareness of their work in the City.

17/17F

ANNUAL REVIEWS

Policies:

- **Data Protection Policy & Records Policy**
- **Press & Media Policy**
- **Third-Party Recording of Meetings Policy**
- **Complaints Policy** (Procedure for use in complaints against the Council)
- **Flag Policy**

Draft policies were presented and minor amendments agreed.

RECOMMENDED

The above policies were proposed, seconded and recommended to Council for adoption.

17/18F

BUS 67 up-date

Cllr Briton and Price reported from a meeting held on 7th February. Option 4 was presented and will be funded by SCC until 21st July 2017; this could act as a pilot scheme for the parishes to consider. There were no figures available and no financial proposals to put before the committee.

17/19F

PROPERTIES up-date

- i. Post Office
A preliminary report has been received from the structural engineer.
- ii. Public toilets/ticket office
Contracts have been signed, sealed and completed; keys have not yet been received.

17/20F

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be considered, involving contracts, 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, excluding the press and public: **RESOLVED**

17/21F

CONTRACTS

- i. To consider quotes for replacement curtains (Main Hall):
After consideration the selected quote was proposed, seconded and approved.
Cllrs North and Siggs left the room.
- ii. To consider quotes for a service contract (Public Toilets):
After consideration the selected quote was proposed, seconded and approved.

17/22F

MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

No further matters.

17/23F

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 9th March 2017