

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.00PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
County Cllr. T Munt

17/87F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: J Osman; H Siggs

17/88F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012:

Cllr North (the Mayor) declared a personal interest as Mayor in 17/94F, as a member of Mendip District Council.

17/89F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

17/90F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None wishing to speak.

17/91F FINANCE REPORT

To receive the financial reports for September 2017:

The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for September 2017 were proposed, seconded and approved.

The committee again noted the increase in Town Hall lettings and use by the community; the Town Hall Managers were commended.

The RFO reported on budget considerations and asked members to contact him with any further items in advance of the next meeting.

Items for next agenda:

- Budget for 2018-19.
- Grant criteria.

17/92F ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2016-17

To receive the annual report from the external auditor on accounting and governance:

The audit report was received; there were no comments or items for action.

The report to be taken to the next full Council meeting.

17/93F COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Glastonbury FM:

After consideration it was proposed, seconded and agreed to grant £250.

17/94F ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

Grant-funding criteria:

The RFO outlined the main points of the report circulated.

Members were asked to study the report and send their comments to the Chairman. A review would be carried out by the Chairman, Mayor, Town Clerk and RFO and a revised document returned to the Committee.

17/95F

CHANGING PLACES PROJECT Up-date

Cllr Swain reported, and summarised the situation to date:

- The room has been assessed as suitable, the installation quote was presented to the previous meeting, some preparatory work is required.
- MDC has agreed to contribute £6,000 towards the project costs.
- MDC has confirmed that no planning permission is required, conservation consent is being checked.
- The City Council will provide the premises, arrange the preparatory work at costs of £5,000-8,000, and will maintain the facility after installation.
- There are other partners who have indicated that they may wish to sponsor or provide funds towards the installation of equipment items.

There was a discussion of the issues involved; members were very much of the view that provision of public toilets is a service; the council wishes to make this service available to all; the council has the means to expand the accessibility of the service in this way and is pleased to be able to do so.

There was a discussion about funding. Whilst it is anticipated that partners in the community may wish to contribute, the project can be underwritten from the carried-over reserve in the public toilets contracts budget (budgethead4703), without exposing the council to risk.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed, that the project go ahead.

The officers were instructed to proceed with expenditure up to £17,000. If any over-spend appeared likely the matter to be brought back to the committee.

It was agreed to publicise the decision as widely as possible. There is a Changing Places website, so when the facility is ready, details will be entered there and users will know about it, apparently this system is working well in the community.

17/96F

PROPERTIES Up-date:

Post Office

The council has offered to extend the temporary lease arrangement for a further six months to the end of April 2018 and this has been agreed.

17/97F

MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

- i. Ref. 17/51F. 16/108F. The Mayor requested funding from the Hospitality budget for the Town Twinning visit in November. After some consideration it was agreed that, as host town, the Council should support the Mayor by providing for a dinner for the Burgermeister and his family, with the Mayor and Mayoress; Wells City Council to be invoiced for these meals.
- ii. Agenda item for December meeting: 'Forward planning for Twinning'.

17/98F

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm 9th November 2017:
Budget for 2018-19**