

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: J Osman; C Price; D Swain (Vice-Chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck
Cllr. C Cox
County Cllr. T Munt
7 members of the public

18/14F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: M Brandon; J North (The Mayor); T Robbins (Chairman); H Siggs;
C Wride (Deputy Mayor)

18/15F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012:
None received.

18/16F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2018

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

18/17F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Cllr. Cox spoke seeking support to revoke or amend Standing Order 3ri.
SO3ri. is adopted by Wells City Council to allow for voting by paper ballot in certain defined circumstances. Decisions are otherwise made by show of hands. Members of the public also spoke on this matter.
Reference was made to the Good Councillor's Guide and the NALC model Standing Orders.
Concerns centred around transparency and accountability.

18/18F ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

It was agreed to vary the order on the agenda, taking this item next, in response to public interest.

i. Standing Orders; to consider Risk Assessment of SO3ri. (attached):

Members had been provided by the Town Clerk with the risk assessment on SO3ri. No other matters were raised for review on Standing Orders.

After consideration, it was proposed, seconded and agreed to ask Cllr Cox to take forward a motion on SO3ri. to full Council.

ii. Financial Regulations

The Town Clerk and RFO are reviewing procedures on BACS payments.

It was agreed to have two additional bank signatories (Councillors).

iii. Committee Delegation Scheme to be on the next agenda.

18/19F FINANCE REPORT

i. To receive the financial reports for January 2018

The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for January 2018 were proposed, seconded and approved.

ii. Implementation of Investment Strategy

The RFO has researched appropriate reserve holdings in accordance with agreed policy; recommendations were approved.

iii. Insurance

The Town Clerk and RFO reported on the annual review meeting with the insurer, a few small adjustments have been made.

iv. SCC Reserve Fund

Car parks signage and SIDs are two highways-related projects being considered for funding from this reserve. Funds allocated for the Stoberry crossing patrol have not been taken up.

v. To approve Staffing contingency budget

As reported at Council on 25th January, this matter is now concluded; the final budget figures were approved.

18/20F

REPORTS:

i. Speed Indicator Devices

The Town Clerk and RFO reported from an exploratory meeting with the neighbouring parishes of St Cuthbert Out and Wookey. The scheme could be managed by City Council staff on a rota of sites. It is not yet clear if a shared scheme would be of benefit.

Further information will be sought from the Police and SCC Highways to clarify:

- a. Approval of appropriate sites in Wells
- b. Exactly what the regulations are on length of stay
- c. Set-up and running costs
- d. Data collection and analysis

ii. Adoption of phone box at Wookey Hole Road

Cllr Price reported Wells Rotary are keen to participate in the project to provide a community defibrillator. Conservation or Planning consents are not required to move the box onto City Council land outside the front of the Town Hall.

Cllr Robbins has contacted the local forge, who are willing to move and renovate the box.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed, to proceed with the contract to purchase the red phone box at Wookey Hole Road.

18/21F

CHANGING PLACES PROJECT Up-date

Listed Building Consent has been received, electrical work is prepared and building works well under way.

18/22F

PROPERTIES Up-date

No matters to report.

18/23F

MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

- i. Items for the next agenda:
 - a. Band stand concert – grant funding application
 - b. Bus 67 – up-date from Cllr Price
- ii. GDPR up-date: all Councillors and staff will need training

18/24F

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 8th March 2018