

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019 AT 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: M Brandon; J North; J Osman (Deputy Mayor, Vice-Chairman) in the Chair;  
D Swain; C Wride (The Mayor)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck  
Cllr. P Welch.  
1 member of the public, 1 press.

**19/01F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Cllrs: H Siggs; C Price; T Robbins (Chairman)

**19/02F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012.  
None declared.

**19/03F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018:**  
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.  
Matters Arising  
**18/117F** The RFO gave an up-date: Information has been received and meetings have been held with partners. The Council's insurer has advised the Council is not covered for third parties to use the cross-street Christmas lights support wires for other purposes. The Officers were instructed to continue working with the users and Chamber of Commerce.  
**18/116F** Query to be taken forward to full Council.

**19/04F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
i. Cllr Welch spoke about cross-street wires being used for banners.  
ii. Cllr Welch gave a summary of his discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner during her recent community day at the Town Hall.

**19/05F FINANCE REPORT**  
To receive the financial reports for December 2018:  
The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for December 2018 were proposed, seconded and approved.  
The Council's insurance policy and all covers have been reviewed with the provider and up-dated where necessary.

**19/06F COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS**  
i. Age UK Somerset: £260 proposed, seconded and agreed (General Power of Competence).  
ii. MS Therapy Centre: £300 proposed, seconded and agreed (General Power of Competence).

**19/07F ADDITIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT REQUEST**  
Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau (Wells):  
Funding has been cut by Somerset County Council.  
Mendip District Council is able to take up some of the shortfall.  
The Wells CAB is very well used by the people of Wells; the committee agreed it of great benefit to the community. The current request will enable the CAB to continue provision of service three days a week in Wells.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to increase the grant to £5,000, plus free-of-charge office accommodation in Wells Town Hall, as agreed with the Town Hall Manager. Local Government Act 1972 s142(2A)

**It was proposed, seconded and agreed to recommend that Council adjust the budget for 2019-20 and make a corresponding increase on the Precept request to cover this grant.**

**RECOMMENDED**

**To make an addition to the Precept request, making a total Precept request of £435,530.**

**19/08F**

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS** (list attached)

The schedule and documents were presented by the Town Clerk and examined by the Committee.

- i. Arrangements with outside bodies  
Proposed, seconded and approved for recommendation to Council. The Town Clerk was asked to provide a session at the new Council's induction training for each of the outside bodies to send a representative to speak to the Council about their work.
- ii. Standing Orders  
After consideration, the draft was proposed, seconded and approved for recommendation to Council, noting comments from Cllr North which he was asked to discuss with the Town Clerk before she prepares the final draft.
- iii. Scheme of Delegation  
After consideration, the draft was proposed, seconded and approved for recommendation to Council. Cllr North to bring a written amendment to full Council if he wishes.
- iv. Policies  
The Council's policies have been recently reviewed; members are invited to request any copies from the Town Clerk and submit any reviews they think necessary to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

**19/09F**

**ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

- i. Cllr North - Item for future agenda: Wells Twinning Association are planning a celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning with Paray le Monial, to be held the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019. They will be putting forward a request for funding from the Hospitality budget.
- ii. Cllr Osman: apologies for the next meeting.

**19/10F**

**PROPERTIES  
TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Due to the confidential nature of the matters to be considered, relating to 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.

The press and public left the room.

The Town Clerk gave a confidential report and was directed how to proceed.

**19/11F**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019**