

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021 AT 7:00PM VIA ZOOM

**PRESENT ON ZOOM:** Cllrs: L Agabani (Vice-chair), S Cursley (Chair),  
Cllr O Hartley (Deputy Mayor), N Kennedy, P Welch (Mayor)

**IN ATTENDANCE ON ZOOM:** Town Clerk/RFO, S Luck  
WCC Staff: A Westwood  
WCC Cllr J Rust  
2 members of public

**21/36F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: S Briton, J Osman

**21/37F 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.

**21/38F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021:**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and will be signed in due course.

**21/39F MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Mr C Simmons spoke about the Portway Annexe initial business plan and the increase in costs between the plan and actual offer accepted to buy the Annexe also the liability for business rates. Councillors and the Town Clerk explained the process and offers made, also the business rates payable will depend on the use of the building. Mr Simmons also questioned the wording of the agenda item and minutes.  
Cllr Rust agreed with Mr Simmons and stated she voted against the proposal.

**21/40F FINANCE REPORT**

To receive the Finance Reports for March 2021 (DRAFT)  
The bank statements were checked prior to the meeting by Micosshade as part of year end shutdown.  
The Town Clerk/RFO answered questions from members on the accounts and explained the year end position on reserves which are still within acceptable limits despite the shutdown. Final year end accounts will be circulated.  
The Chairman Cllr Cursley thanked the Town Clerk for his management of the accounts.

**21/41F TOWN HALL WEDDINGS**

The Town Clerk asked members to approve opening of discussions with Somerset County Council Registrars to see if it is possible to set up a permanent registrar base for weddings at the Town Hall in the event of local government reorganisation.  
The Town Clerk was asked about the number of weddings booked and the number other Town Halls do in the area; he did not have those numbers but offered to investigate.  
Members agreed to staff exploring options.

**21/42F SKATEBOARD PARK**

The Town Clerk asked members to approve him to start Community Asset Transfer negotiations or a possible long lease for the current site to support the new community group plans for a new skate park. Members agreed.

**21/43F PORTWAY ANNEXE**

The Town Clerk updated members on the completion of the building survey which showed it to be in good structural order, roof and gulley clearing to prevent water ingress has already been agreed prior to purchase with SCC.

Further quotes will be obtained to cover maintenance issues raised by the survey and will be presented to the new Annexe committee when it meets later this month.

The application for pre-approval for the Public Works Loan has been submitted but are subject to delays.

**21/44F PROPERTIES UPDATE**

The Town clerk updated members,

1. Hospitality rents will be invoiced when the businesses reopen as per terms of their leases.
2. The solicitors have been instructed to work on the new lease for Priory Road building and members will be informed when this is complete.
3. The Pop up Post Office is still open and will be sharing the bus station waiting room office with the First Bus ticket office which is reopening. The new Post Office is due to open in Queen Street in the next couple of months.

The Town Clerk answered questions from members.

**21/45F ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

No matters raised.

**21/46F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Note- It is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence 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.