

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: J Browne, S Cursley (Mayor) G Folkard, T Pullin (Deputy Mayor & Chair), T Robbins, H Siggs, I Von Mensenkampff,

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk/RFO, S Luck  
WCC Staff, C Hobbs  
0 members of the public

**No attendance:** none

#### **22/49/FCM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Cllrs: P Welch

#### **22/50/FCM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

None received.

#### **22/51/FCM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022:**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

#### **22/52/FCM MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC, none**

#### **22/53/FCM FINANCE**

i To receive the Finance Reports for June 2022

The Town Clerk reported that the Finance Reports are required to be presented as part of the Finance Meetings. He explained to Councillors the different sections that make up the monthly Finance statement.

This was followed by a discussion and questions from Councillors regarding specific items on the statement.

The accounts and all expenses for June 2022 were approved by the Committee.

ii Bike 2 Work Scheme - to agree spending limits,

The Town Clerk suggested that a limit of 1k be set for the purchase of a bicycle on the Bike 2 Work scheme and a limit of 2k for an E bicycle.

Following a brief discussion about the merits of the Bike 2 Work scheme, Cllr T Pullin proposed that these limits be set, Cllr T Robbins seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **22/54/FCM ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS**

i To receive an update

Cllr H Siggs reported that he had met with Veronica Howe the new Archivist and explained that a work programme was planned for digitisation of much of the Wells City Archive and that there is a need to create new systems, so that access to the archives is improved. Cllr H Siggs explained that the archives have been in two locations, pre 1974 are stored at Wells Museum and council papers since 1974 were in the Town Hall. The Archivist will in due course, exhibit items, to increase the interest of Wells residents in their local history.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that legally, Minutes of Council meetings are required to be archived as a paper archive as well as a digital copy.

ii Town Crier uniform

The Town Clerk and Cllr H Siggs are researching costings and suitable outfitters to provide a replacement of the Town Crier's uniform. Members will be provided with an update at the next meeting when costings are known.

iii Displaying the British Legion Standard

The Town Clerk reported that Wells City Council had been approached by The Royal British Legion with a request to display their Standard within the Town Hall.

Cllr T Pullin proposed that the meeting agree to the request and the Meeting voted unanimously to back the proposal.

**22/55/FCM UNITARY AND ACQUISITIONS**

The Town Clerk reported that Alyn Jones LGR Programme Director and his team have agreed to attend a meeting of parishes in September at Wells Town Hall, this will give Councillors the opportunity to ask questions. The date is still to be confirmed. The Town Clerk assured the Meeting that he is pushing for information to be forthcoming as early as possible prior to commencement of the Unitary Authority so that any preparations can be made to ensure any services are not interrupted. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that shortfalls are already being reported in the Somerset budget for next financial year.

The new Chief Executive of Somerset Unitary Council has been selected.

**22/56/FCM STAFFING (Agenda item moved to confidential item at end of meeting)**

i To receive update from Lead Councillor T Robbins

ii To discuss confidential matter

**22/57/FCM ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

None received

**22/58/FCM DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Note:** It is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it was proposed by the Chair that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended to allow a private staffing report.

**22/56/FCM STAFFING**

- I. Cllr Robbins reported the Sustainability Officer has resigned and will be leaving her post this week. Any future appointment will be subject to budget agreement and arrangements made to cover sustainability in the new Unitary arrangements.
- II. A private and confidential matter involving a staff member was raised and members updated.

**Minutes signed by The Chair:** ..... **Date:** .....