

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk/RFO: S Luck
WCC Cllr: S Powell
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
0 members of public

23/45/FCM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Cllrs: G Folkard

23/46/FCM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.

23/47/FCM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH APRIL 2023:
The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.
No matters arising.

23/48/FCM MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Nobody wished to speak.

23/49/FCM FINANCE
The Town Clerk presented the April 2023 accounts and answered questions.
The accounts and all expenses for April 2023 were approved by the committee.

The Town Clerk explained the insurance assessor would visit the Town Hall, Bishop's Barn and 'Ask' restaurant premises on Friday 19th May. Cover is in place, but this is to check if any alterations are required.

The internal auditor, due to a family bereavement, would not be coming in until Wednesday 24th May.

The precept money has now been received.

A new mechanic to service the disabled lifts has been sourced. Payment has been made up front and both lifts will be serviced next week.

Somerset have approached WCC to negotiate a further 19-month contract for the Ukrainian Hub which will look after all refugees in Wells and the surrounding areas of Glastonbury, Street, Shepton. This will guarantee an income in excess of £100k. Cllr Welch praised the work being carried out at the Hub.

Cllr Siggs asked when the accounts would be completed for the Portway Annexe. The Town Clerk confirmed he would provide this information in June. Wells Cemetery would follow in September.

23/50/FCM ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS
Lead Cllr Siggs, gave an update and confirmed Jonathan Chivers was now employed by WCC on a temporary basis for 3 months, two days per week. He has already updated the display cabinets within the Town Hall.
It was agreed the Civic review, which will take place after Mayor Making, will include guidelines for communicating with the media.

The Town Crier is still awaiting his new uniform, the material has been received and is in the process of being made.

23/51/FCM UNITARY AND ACQUISITIONS

The Town Clerk advised information released on the new set up remains slow. A date for a meeting with the LCN's is expected to be announced soon. *Since the meeting, this has been confirmed as Wednesday 21st June, 7pm in Priddy.*

A discussion took place on the charges for road closures, traffic congestion/safety and litter collection. The Town Clerk and Cllr Browne agreed to follow up on these issues outside of the meeting.

23/52/FCM ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

The Mayor thanked Cllr Pullin for her efforts in chairing this committee during his mayoral year.

23/53/FCM DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 8th June 2023

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 report.

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