

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 12th JANUARY
2012 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: J North (Vice-Chairman) in the Chair; D Unwin (The Mayor);
C Price (Deputy-Mayor) ; D Anderson; M Brandon;
H Siggs (substitute for Cllr Davies).

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck.
C Reeves, Mendip District Council CCTV Manager

12/01F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Davies (approved); T Robbins; T Butt Philip.

12/02F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- i. Cllr Siggs declared a personal interest as Somerset County Councillor in matters relating to SCC Highways.
- ii. Cllrs Siggs, Unwin and North declared a personal interest as Mendip District Councillors in matters relating to CCTV.
- iii. Cllr Siggs declared a personal and prejudicial interest as member of MDC Cabinet in matters relating to finance of CCTV.

12/03F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th DECEMBER 2011

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

12/04F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr Reeves gave a summary of recent meetings and the current five year Strategy approved this week by MDC Cabinet.

New Service Level Agreements will be prepared for the towns participating in the partnership; it is expected that the requested funding will be similar to the current agreement, due to expire on 31.03.2012; it is anticipated that the budgetary provision already made by the City Council for 2012-13 will be sufficient.

Mr Reeves answered questions about the service; members found the information he gave most interesting; he has offered to report to full council in the near future.

12/05F FINANCIAL REPORT

The accounts were scrutinised; the bank statements had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for December 2011 were proposed, seconded and approved. Members were pleased to note an increase in Town Hall lettings income.

12/06F REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE PAVING WITH TARMACADAM

The Town Clerk summarised the correspondence and subsequent e-mails received; a site meeting has been held with the Area Manager. It is not clear whether SCC will continue to replace paving with like-for-like in the Conservation Area beyond the current financial year. The contribution to be sought from Wells City Council for an average year has been estimated by SCC as in the region of £1,500. The Town Clerk advised on the complications regarding legal powers used to make payments of the type being proposed.

Cllr Siggs spoke to provide information and then left the room.

Councillors had some concerns about on-going commitment to the scheme and the need for details to be clarified.

After further discussion the following proposal was made and seconded:

To make budgetary provision of an additional £1,500 on the Precept; the

**matter must be returned to Finance and General Purposes Committee for full debate before any expenditure is made from this additional budget:
Resolved.**

12/07F CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It was agreed that comparative quotes shall be sought for the Christmas lights and new ideas and proposals investigated. A small working group was appointed to look into the possibilities and gather information:
Cllrs Robbins and Anderson, with the RFO.
(Cllr Siggs returned to the meeting.)

12/08F CCTV See 12/04 above.

12/09F BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR 2012-13

Councillors reviewed the Hospitality element of the recommended Budget, as it had become apparent that 2012-13 was likely to be a busy year for civic events; it was agreed that this element of the budget should remain unchanged.

**It was proposed and seconded that the draft Budget and Precept recommended on 1st December 2011 should be recommended to Council for adoption on 26th January, with the Budget adjustment for Highway project at 12/06 above and addition of £1,500 to the Precept:
Resolved.**

The RFO will make the necessary adjustment to the figures and circulate to all Councillors at the earliest opportunity.

RECOMMENDED

That the Budget and Precept as adjusted by the Committee on 12th January 2012 be approved by the City Council.

(See Minute 12/06 for details.)

12/10F ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

To consider recommendation from insurance risk assessor re: Town Hall fire alarm system remote signalling.

The Committee approved the recommended action and the quote presented.

12/11F ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Brandon: Arrangements for the Freedom visit from HMS Somerset.
- ii. The Mayor: the Council has been invited to attend the unveiling of the Harry Patch Memorial stone at the Museum, to be celebrated at evensong in the Cathedral 3pm Sunday 6th May 2012.

12/12F DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at **7.00pm on Thursday 9th February 2012**