

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 8th MARCH 2012
AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Robbins (the Chairman); C Price (Deputy-Mayor) ;
D Anderson; M Brandon; T Butt Philip; S Davies; J North.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck;
Office and I.T. Assistant: C Pritchard-Williams.
Mr B Lane, Curator, Wells Museum.

12/26F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr. D Unwin (The Mayor).

12/27F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

12/28F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th FEBRUARY 2012
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

12/29F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
It was agreed Wells Museum Curator would speak at 12/31F i.

12/30F FINANCIAL REPORT
The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for February 2012 were proposed, seconded and approved. Cllr North asked that his concerns be noted regarding future potential increases in fuel costs. Cllr Price proposed any surplus in the current year budget be rolled over to the following year, this was agreed.

12/31F GRANT APPLICATIONS
i. Wells Museum Tourist Information Centre £500 (LGA S 144).
Wells Museum Curator presented an application to assist funding the display of tourist information material, and answered questions.
After consideration the grant was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.
ii. Cobra Carnival Club £500 towards lighting circuit (LGA S145).
After consideration the grant was proposed, seconded and approved.
(Cllr North abstained.)
It was agreed to ask that there be a reference to Wells on the float.

12/32F WEBSITE REVIEW
A brief had been sent out and two quotes received; there was a short presentation to illustrate some of the options; the RFO presented a financial summary. A detailed discussion followed, this confirmed the priorities already identified and raised some additional questions. The over-riding issues were that the website should be easy for the public to use, be relevant to Wells and be easy to up-date.
The related matters of e-mail hosting and the possibility of hosting individual e-mail addresses for City Councillors are also being progressed.
In conclusion it was proposed that the officers be asked to proceed with the process of setting up a new website to be managed in-house; to obtain answers to the questions raised and then decide on a preferred quote; to accept and install the new website as soon as possible. This was seconded and unanimously agreed.

12/33F OLYMPIC TORCH 22nd MAY 2012

i. To approve public safety arrangements

The Chairman reported from confidential briefings at Mendip District Council attended by himself, Cllr Price, the Town Clerk and the RFO. MDC has asked the town and parish councils to make certain arrangements but these have to be kept confidential for the time being.

The following actions were proposed and approved:

- To work in partnership with MDC in preparing for this event.
- To carry out the necessary Risk Assessment and actions arising.
- To apply for appropriate Road Closure Orders.
- To notify the Council's Insurer that the City Council has shared responsibility for this event.

It was proposed and agreed that the Town Clerk be instructed to make whatever arrangements seem fit to her and inform whoever in the Council seems appropriate of any risks, or if any issues arise.

ii. Street dressing

The Chairman reported plans to display Union Flags in the city centre. Flags could be placed on poles in the Christmas tree sockets on the building fronts. Poles and installation have been sourced; it was proposed that the cost of flags, expected to be £150 - £200, be funded from surplus remaining in the current year Christmas lights budget. The flags would be put up before the Olympic Torch comes through on 22nd May and remain up for the summer's events. This was proposed, seconded and approved.

12/34F ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr North item for next agenda: confidential pink papers..

12/35F DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at **7.00pm on Thursday 12th April 2012**