

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon; C Price; T Robbins (Chairman); H Siggs; D Swain;
C Wride (The Mayor).

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck
Cllr. P Welch
1 member of the press.

18/102F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllrs: J North, J Osman (Deputy Mayor, Vice-Chairman).

18/103F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012:
Cllrs: Robbins, Siggs and Wride (The Mayor) each declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as members, in matters relating to Wells Recreation Ground Trust.

18/104F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2018
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

18/105F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
None wishing to speak.

18/106F FINANCE REPORT
To receive the financial reports for October 2018:

- i. The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for October 2018 were proposed, seconded and approved.
- ii. The RFO reported correspondence with Mendip District Council regarding the toilet block at Wells Recreation Ground. MDC have requested that the City Council reinstate an annual contribution towards the cleaning costs; this was agreed in principle, to be included in the budget for 2019-20.

18/107F DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020
To consider a draft budget and precept, and to make recommendations to Council: The draft budget was presented and discussed page by page; items were considered in detail, careful consideration was given to transparency and to the responsible use of public funds to the benefit of the Wells community.

Administration:

- 4001 Salaries: questions were answered regarding audit and functions.

Civic:

- 4136 Elections: questions answered regarding estimated costs.
- 4134 Hospitality: issues were debated; this budget had been under-used for many years. A reduced budget of £1,000 was proposed, seconded and agreed.

Outside Support:

- 4159 Community Bus Support: concerns were discussed; it was agreed that transparency is significant. The proposed budget of £2,310 was approved with:
- 4150 Community grants: reduce to £8,000.

Public Toilets:

Noted: Business rates have been reduced to zero.

- 4708 Maintenance- Increased costs of repairs due to vandalism was noted.
(Cllr Price gave his apologies and left the meeting)

Extra items for consideration were discussed:

1. Highway grit purchase £1,000.
Proposed, seconded and agreed. New budget head: Open Spaces 4223
2. Recreation Ground Toilets £3,800.
Proposed, seconded and agreed. New budget head: Public Toilets 4709
3. Clock on Town Hall £2,500.
It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this would be a community Memorial Clock project.
4. Parkes Room Balcony £10,000.
Proposed, seconded and agreed. New budget head: Committees 4211
5. 'Meet & Greet' shelter at coach station £3,000.
Proposed, seconded and agreed. New budget head: Open Spaces 4224

In conclusion, it was proposed, seconded and agreed, that the adjusted draft budget and precept, be submitted to full Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDED

To adopt the budget and precept for the year 2019 – 2020 as presented by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

18/108F

ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

No further matters.

18/109F

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm **Wednesday 12th December 2018**

(Mid-Somerset Carol Service: 7pm Thursday 13th December)