

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JULY 2024 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani, J Browne (Mayor), S Cursley (Chair), G Folkard, T Robbins, H Siggs

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: S Luck
Devolution Officer: H Wilkins
WCC Cllrs: D Orrett, S Powell
MP for Wells and Mendip Hills: T Munt
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
Wells Voice: A Vallis
No member of public

24/66/FCM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllr: T Pullin, I Von Mensenkampff

RFO: Claire Woodland

24/67/FCM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

None received

24/68/FCM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JUNE 2024

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

24/69/FCM MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Nobody wished to speak.

24/70/FCM FINANCE

The Town Clerk, in the absence of the RFO, presented the draft Finance Report for June 2024 and answered questions.

Cllr Siggs asked what the position was with the parking area outside the Bishop's Barn in South Street. The Town Clerk confirmed he had written to the solicitors of the Recreation Ground Trust, to seek clarity on the terms of transfer. The committee will be advised once a reply is received.

Cllr Siggs queried if any money would be claimed back from Somerset Council for the repairs to the Union Street toilets. The Town Clerk confirmed £2,000 had been agreed.

The accounts and expenses for June 2024 were approved by the committee.

24/71/FCM BLEED KITS

Cllr G Robbins has made a proposal to Wells City Council for Bleed Kits to be made available within the City. This proposal has been approved. It was referred to the Finance Committee to approve the budget. Each bleed kit cost under £100, inclusive of VAT. The Mayor confirmed St John Ambulance had offered to provide free training to councillors and members of the public. Suggested locations for the kits were: the Esso Petrol station, Portway Annexe, The Swan Hotel, Town Hall. Cllr Powell suggested having one in the area of Wetherspoons in Priory Road. The Town

Clerk suggested liaising with Rotary who have overseen the distribution of Defibrillators in the City. Cllr Cursley volunteered to contact them.

Cllr Siggs proposed a budget provision of £500, this was seconded by Cllr T Robbins. All members were in favour.

24/72/FCM CCTV AGREEMENT

The Devolution Officer, Haylee Wilkins, advised a draft 12-month CCTV agreement had been received from Somerset which was yet to be signed. Confirmation is being sought on the following:

- the same worded draft agreement has gone to other councils
- the financial contribution for all councils
- reassurance that if any changes are made to any agreement, all councils are informed.

It was proposed by Cllr Siggs for the officers at WCC to sign the CCTV agreement, once answers to the above are known. It was seconded by Cllr Agabani and all members were in favour.

24/73/FCM UNITARY DEVOLUTION

The Devolution Officer gave an update on:

- i. Governance – a project plan, action plan and risk matrix have been drafted and will be circulated.
- ii. Communications – a timeline of communications has been drafted.
- iii. Working Group Terms of Reference – this has been drafted and will be circulated for approval. The working group meets weekly and this is proving very useful in assisting officers.
- iv. Minutes of previous meetings – reports and minutes of meetings will be reported to Full Council.

24/74/FCM DEVOLUTION PUBLICITY BUDGET

To agree a £5,000 budget to provide public information. This would be taken from the £100,000 put aside. This was agreed.

Cllr Siggs asked for it to be referred to as ‘Devolution Communication Budget’ not to use the word ‘publicity’.

24/75/FCM DEVOLUTION COUNCIL PRIORITY MOTION

The Town Clerk requested all councillors be mindful of the amount of work currently being carried out by council officers on the devolution process. Some assets may be transferred from Somerset Council by end September 2024. This was noted. An additional August meeting will be arranged for Finance and Staffing, if necessary. All councillors to be invited.

24/76/FCM ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

No matters were raised.

24/77/FCM DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm, Thursday 12th September 2024

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:**