

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2015 AT 7.00PM

- PRESENT:** Cllrs: C Briton; M Brandon; C Price(Vice-Chairman);
T Robbins (Chairman); H Siggs; G Wilson (the Mayor)
- IN ATTENDANCE** Town Clerk F White; RFO: S Luck
Cllrs: N Kennedy, R MacKenzie
1 representative of Glastonbury fm
- 15/49F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllr J North
- 15/50F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012
None declared.
- 15/51F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2015**
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.
- 15/52F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Representative to speak at 15/54F: Community funding application.
- 15/53F FINANCIAL REPORT**
To receive financial report for June 2015:
The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for June 2015 were proposed, seconded and approved.
(Cllr Siggs arrived)
- i. Investment Account
The RFO reported that the investment account was due for renewal. Options were considered, having regard to liquidity, security and risk exposure. The Public Sector Deposit Fund was considered; the cost of transfer, loss of interest and increase in bank charges, were weighed against spread of risk.
After discussion it was agreed to recommend that the council renew the Lloyds bank instant access investment account for six months.
 - ii. Locality Grant for Neighbourhood Plan
Ref: 15/43F: Locality will not release the final £700 because the grant was underspent at 31/12/14. In addition Locality demanded a refund from the City Council of the balance remaining after 31/12/14. The Town Clerk entered a discretionary appeal, subsequently negotiating the repayment down to £170.
The Steering Group has been notified that the situation is under investigation.
The Committee noted £50 already over-spent (approved 11/06/15).
The Committee agreed:
 - i. The Council must make the repayment of £170 to Locality.
 - ii. Any further grant application must be made by the Council Officers and any funds must be managed directly by them.
 - iii. If a further grant is applied for it would be necessary to allocate Senior Officers' time to administer it; this has a significant cost implication for the Council.

15/54F

COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATION

Glastonbury fm (LGA 1972 s145)

A representative presented the application.

After consideration it was proposed and seconded to make a grant of £200, this was put to the vote but was not agreed by the majority; members were concerned about making a grant towards running costs.

15/55F

PUBLIC TOILETS

i. Princes Road, Wells

Information was received from Mendip District Council, after consideration it was agreed to put a proposal to MDC:

To offer to take a lease at a 'peppercorn rent' on the toilets at Princes Road. A term of 10 years was suggested; breaks and repayment of investment in repairs to be negotiated as terms.

(Cllr Siggs left the meeting)

ii. Wells Recreation Ground

The Town Clerk has held extensive discussions and correspondence with the Officer at MDC. Transfer of assets, including the toilet block, is said to be in progress. A new trust is being set up and it is not yet known how the new trust will wish to proceed. It is thought that it may be possible to have discussions in September about future funding proposals.

15/56F

MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

i. Proposal to display city flags in the High Street during the Festivals in October

ii. Property lease

The final lease and rent increase have been agreed, subject to terms.

15/57F

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 10th September 2015