

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 MARCH 2018 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon; J North (The Mayor); J Osman; C Price; T Robbins (Chairman);
H Siggs; D Swain (Vice-Chairman); C Wride (Deputy Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck
Cllrs: C Cox; R Mackenzie
1 member of the press
10 members of the public

18/25F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None received.

18/26F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012:
Cllr Osman declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in **18/30F** ii, as City Council representative to the trustees of Wells Museum.

18/27F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2018
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

18/28F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- i. Presentation by Mr D Haynes re: 18/30F ii. 'Love Musgrove'
- ii. Presentation by Mr A Webb re: 18/30Fi. Wells and Mendip Museum Visitor Information Service
- iii. Cllrs Cox and MacKenzie, and Mr S Lawder, spoke about 18/32Fi. Standing Order 3ri.

18/29F FINANCE REPORT

- i. To receive the financial reports for February 2018
The bank statements had been checked prior to the meeting; the accounts had been circulated and were presented for approval.
The accounts for February 2018 were proposed, seconded and approved.
- ii. To confirm bank signatories and make recommendation to Council.
- iii. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to recommend that Cllrs North and Wride be added to the list of bank signatories.

RECOMMENDED

To add Cllrs J North and C Wride to the Council's Bank Signing Mandate.

The RFO reported on the energy savings measures at the Town Hall; the Energy Certification is now 38(category B); excellent for building of this type.

18/30F FUNDING REQUESTS

- i. To consider request from Wells and Mendip Museum Visitor Information Service
It was proposed, seconded and agreed by vote, to grant £3,000 as budgeted for the current year. (Cllr Osman abstained from the vote, Ref: 18/26F)
- ii. To consider request from 'Love Musgrove' TST Scanner Campaign
It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to grant £2,000 from the Discretionary Grants budget; there being sufficient funds remaining in the current year budget.

18/31F

PROJECT REPORTS

- i. Speed Indicator Devices
- ii. The Town Clerk and RFO have clarified the approvals with the Police and SCC Highways. They attended the PACT meeting to consult with Police and public. Detailed work on site locations will be carried out, to produce project costs and a preliminary rota.
- iii. Adoption of phone box at Wookey Hole Road
The agreement has been finalised. Local quotes are being obtained for renovation and repositioning the box. A site outside the Town Hall will be identified subject to safe access to electricity supply.
- iv. 'Changing Places'
Electrical work is complete; building works nearly finished, then flooring to be laid. After this the special equipment can be installed. Completion in about six weeks' time.
Cllr Swain thanked the staff for their work on this project, it has been progressed very quickly; also the Mendip Officers, who have been very helpful.
- v. Wells bus station
The agreement for the enhancement works has been signed and includes provision for the Meet and Greet Team. Indoor works are complete, leaflet display is on order. Outdoor works will take place over the next few weeks.
It is hoped to install a mains sourced water bottle-refilling point; also at the Town Hall. The RFO reported this may be cost-neutral as the hired drinking-water unit could be no longer required.

18/32F

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

- i. Standing Orders: SO3r.i. review

The Chairman summarised the review process to date; all members had put their views at the full Council meeting in February. The Chairman made clear that the matter laid before this Committee, for review, concerned the voting process. He gave an analysis of the elements of SO3ri and its applications. In conclusion he put forward a proposal for recommendation to Council:

That the Town Clerk, Chairman, and Deputy Mayor, together, look at how Council's Committees are formed and report back, and that Standing Order 3ri be revoked.

After brief consideration, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Osman and put to the vote. The Mayor abstained from voting, holding the Mayoral position in neutrality. The proposal was carried by six votes in favour and one against.

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Clerk, Chairman, and Deputy Mayor, together, look at how Council's Committees are formed and report back, and that Standing Order 3ri be revoked.

- ii. Financial Regulations

The Town Clerk presented the document, (copied to members), identified and explained the two proposed changes. The Financial Regulations, with amendments, were proposed, seconded and approved. The Town Clerk was asked to seek further advice regarding two paragraphs dealing with IT security.

- iii. Committee Delegation Scheme

No matters were identified for comment. The delegation scheme was proposed, seconded and approved.

18/33F

BUS ROUTE 67 Report from Cllr Price:

No further matters to report.

Cllr Osman reported on an offer made by a developer to Somerset County Council, to donate funding to support the bus service.

18/34F **PROPERTIES** Up-dates
No matters to report.

18/35F **MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**
Cllr Siggs, Chairman of the City Archives Committee, reported there were some small items of interest for sale from the estate of the late Lord Somerville, Freeman of the City of Wells. He proposed purchasing some for the City Archive, if possible, up to a price of £300, from the Archives Committee budget and he sought members' opinion on this suggestion. The idea was seconded and approved by vote.

18/36F **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 12th April 2018**