

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon; J North; C Price; T Robbins (Chairman); H Siggs

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck
5 members of the public

18/110F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

J Osman (Deputy Mayor, Vice-Chairman); D Swain; C Wride (The Mayor)

18/111F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012:

Cllr North declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as member of the Steering group, in 18/115Fii. Wake Up Wells; and as Council representative in 18/117F Town Twinning.

Cllr Siggs declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as member of the Steering group, in 18/115Fii. Wake Up Wells.

18/112F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2018

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

18/113F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Representatives from the relevant organisations presented the community funding applications and answered questions:

- i. Somerset & Wessex Eating Disorders
- ii. Wake Up Wells

18/114F FINANCE REPORT

To receive the financial reports for November 2018:

The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for November 2018 were proposed, seconded and approved.

18/115F COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- i. Somerset & Wessex Eating Disorders: Proposed, seconded and agreed £400 subject to the project taking place.
- ii. Wake Up Wells: Proposed, seconded and agreed £500 to be used specifically for the Resilience Voyage Drugs Bus on the Community Day 26th January 2019.
- iii. Age UK Somerset: £260. Insufficient information; further details to be requested.

18/116F CIVIC AWARD HOSPITALITY

Cllr. Price gave a summary of the award proposal put forward by the Archives and Civic Assets Committee and approved by full Council.

A budget of £250 was approved for hospitality at the presentation evening to be held on 22nd February 2019 in the Town Hall.

18/117F CROSS-STREET WIRES

To consider a risk and liability assessment on the use of the High Street wires for banners: Minute ref: 18/99Fii.

20 wires have been replaced this season; several wall brackets also had to be fixed prior to the Christmas lights being put up at total costs of approximately £4,000.

The Committee received an incident report and assessment of risks to workers and to the public.

Options were discussed and consideration was given to permitting banners and making a charge to cover costs. However, it was accepted that the wires and fittings are not suitable for this purpose and the liabilities cannot be addressed. It was agreed to inform SCC Highways that permission to use the cross-street wires for banners has been withdrawn. Known users will be notified and the situation will be kept under review.

18/118F

TOWN TWINNING

Review of Town Hall booking:

This committee had granted permission for use to be free of charge but this resulted in lack of information regarding the intended use and there were problems caused to staff and to other user groups on the day.

After consideration it was agreed that any free-of-charge use must follow the same procedure as other bookings. The user must meet with the Town Hall Manager immediately permission is given, complete a booking form, and follow all usual booking procedures. In this way, the Town Hall staff would retain the normal controls over any incidents.

Cllr North, as representative, offered to convey feedback to the Town Twinning Association.

18/119F

DEFIBRILLATOR

The RFO reported the following up-dates:

- i. It was agreed to accept the Defibrillator at the bus station onto the City Council's insurance.
- ii. It was agreed to provide use of space in the Town Hall to provide Defibrillator training for Council members, staff and public.
- iii. Cllr Price reported the red phone box had not yet been assessed for viability.

(Cllr Brandon gave her apologies and left the meeting.)

18/120F

PROPERTIES up-date

- i. Post Office Ltd has signed a further three-month extension on the lease to the end of January 2019.
- ii. Maintenance and refurbishments at the bus station toilets are scheduled to take place over the winter months.

18/121F

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be considered, involving contracts, it was proposed by the Chairman that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended, excluding the press and public.

18/122F

ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

- i. A confidential report was received; the matter was referred to the next meeting.

(Cllr North gave his apologies and left the meeting)

- ii. It was agreed to notify MDC that the Precept request will be submitted at the end of January.
- iii. The RFO reported the Millennium Tapestry has been moved to the Town Hall waiting room (at the request of the owner group).

18/123F

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 17th January 2019