

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7:00PM VIA ZOOM

**PRESENT ON ZOOM:** Cllrs: L Agabani, P Crummay, S Cursley (Chairman), O Hartley, J Osman, S Briton

**IN ATTENDANCE ON ZOOM:** Cllrs; J Linsdell, J Rust, J Parker  
Town Clerk/RFO, S Luck  
WCC Staff: A Westwood  
SCC Cllr T Munt  
SCO Cllr M Cooke

**20/63F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs N Kennedy, P Welch (Mayor)

**20/64F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

Cllr L Agabani declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in agenda item 11 as a business partner of interested party.

**20/65F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020:**

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and will be signed in due course.

**20/66F ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr P Crummay was proposed, seconded and voted Vice Chairman

**20/67F MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**

None present

**20/68F FINANCE REPORT**

To receive the Finance Reports for October 2020

The bank statements were checked prior to the meeting by Cllr Crummay.

The Town Clerk/RFO answered questions from members on the accounts.

The accounts for October were proposed, seconded and approved.

**20/69F ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT**

The annual External Audit report for governance and accountability for 2019/20 were received and noted.

The Town Clerk/RFO was thanked for his work on the audits..

**20/70F BUS 67**

The Town Clerk informed members of a recent meeting held with St Cuthbert Out Council on the future of the route. Funding options have been received and route changes were being considered.

All eight Parish Councils were being approached to confirm their funding commitment to allow the bus route to continue.

Members will be updated at the next meeting.

**20/71F BUDGET 2021-22**

The draft budget was presented by the Town Clerk/RFO and explained page by page. The final draft will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

At the next meeting any projects and extra reserves needed will be looked at for consideration.

**20/72F WELLS CITY COUNCIL ETHICAL PROCUREMENT POLICY**

Members agreed the need for a policy and it will be placed on the agenda for Full Council so a volunteer working group can be set up to work with Officers to produce a workable policy.

**20/73F ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

No matters raised.

**20/74F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**20/75F EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC Note:** If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence it will be 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. To allow confidential lease's to be discussed.

**Cllr Agabani left the meeting.**

**20/76F PROPERTIES UPDATE**

The Town Clerk updated members on,

1. The Bus station waiting room, this was being made available to Post Office Counters to provide a temporary pop up Post Office until a new city centre branch opens. The building has been made ready and we are waiting for the Post Office to confirm an opening date.
2. The transfer of the lease to the new Ask restaurant company has been agreed.
3. Options for the Old Post Office building were discussed and members agreed to proceed with the offer of the lease on terms agreed with Le Trans Ltd.
4. Portway Annexe valuation was taking place and discussions were continuing with SCC to buy the building. The Annexe has been nominated to MDC as a Community asset and the panel will be considering the application to place it on the register on December 1<sup>st</sup>.