

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021 AT 7:00PM VIA ZOOM

**PRESENT ON ZOOM:** Cllrs: L Agabani, S Briton, P Crummay (Vice-chair), S Cursley (Chair), O Hartley (Deputy Mayor), N Kennedy, J Osman, P Welch (Mayor)

**IN ATTENDANCE ON ZOOM:** Town Clerk/RFO, S Luck  
WCC Staff: A Westwood  
SCC Cllr T Munt  
WCC Cllrs: J Linsdell, J Rust, R Humphreys

**21/01F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

**21/02F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012.  
None Declared

**21/03F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020:**

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

**21/04F MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**

None requested to speak.

**21/05F FINANCE REPORT**

To receive the Finance Reports for December 2020:  
The bank statements were checked prior to the meeting by Cllr Kennedy.  
The Town Clerk/RFO answered questions from members on the accounts.  
The accounts for December were proposed, seconded and approved.

**21/06F PRECEPT 2021-2022**

To agree a precept that includes agreed budget, reserves and projects:  
The Town Clerk circulated a paper explaining the current financial position with the expected income and expenditure to the end of the financial year. The council had a loss of income of £154,645 due to Covid-19 lockdowns. As services had been closed due to lockdown the staff have been furloughed which has helped the financial situation. It is therefore anticipated financial reserves will be sufficient.  
As a result, it was suggested the precept be increased to cover the agreed budget and also to cover the possible potential costs of purchasing the Portway Annexe.  
Therefore, it was proposed, seconded and agreed to recommend to Full Council the precept request to MDC will be £652,622 an increase of £81,261.

**21/07F CLARITY OF WORKING PARTIES**

Cllr Osman asked the Chairman questions regarding the future of all council working parties and intentions to seek any changes to them at Full Council. He asked for consultation with the facilitators of the groups. Cllr Briton asked in future if all members could have advanced copies of any questions being asked at meetings. Cllr Hartley was uncomfortable with the exchanges of views. The Chairman said he would consult with the Town Clerk before moving forward.

**21/08F ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS**

To review under Standing Order 5:

- i. Standing Orders
- ii. Financial Regulations
- iii. Committees' terms of reference 'Scheme of Delegation'

The Town Clerk asked all members to review the policies, report any suggested changes to him so the committee can discuss them at the next meeting so the review can be completed in this financial year.

**21/09F ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

None reported.

**21/10F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it is 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 in order that confidential property items can be discussed.

**21/11F PROPERTIES UPDATE**

The Town Clerk updated members on the rental income from properties.

As the country was in lockdown the break clause on some rents had occurred.

Also a request from a tenant to suspend rent payments while in lockdown was discussed as the business was unable to trade.

Members accepted the rent holiday request and after discussion agreed this would be reviewed at the end of lockdown.

The Town Clerk also reported the Pop up Post Office had finally opened in the Bus Station waiting room.