

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2022 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: J Browne, S Cursley (Mayor), G Folkard, T Pullin (Deputy Mayor & Chair), H Siggs, I Von Mensenkampff, P Welch

IN ATTENDANCE: WCC Cllrs: L Agabani, T Butt Philip, D Denis, S Powell
Town Clerk/RFO, S Luck
SCC Cllr, T Munt

22/88/FCM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Cllr T Robbins

22/89/FCM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.
None declared.

22/90/FCM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2022:
The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.
No matters arising.

22/91/FCM MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Nobody wished to speak.
Cllrs present were invited to take part in the budget discussion.

22/92/FCM FINANCE
The Town Clerk presented the Finance Reports for November 2022 and answered questions. The accounts included examples of the sales ledger income as suggested by Cllr Siggs at the last meeting.
The accounts and all expenses for November 2022 were approved by the committee.

22/93/FCM BUDGET 2023-24
The Town Clerk/RFO presented the final draft budget.
Members raised questions to the Town Clerk, the following items were discussed in detail:

1. Utility cost of all buildings - It was agreed these were unpredictable and would be regularly reviewed.
2. Community grants - It was agreed to keep the budget figures proposed.
3. Future Archivist position - It was agreed to review the requirements before making a new appointment.
4. A contingency to cover new services devolved from the Unitary Authority - It was agreed after discussion on various options to include a contingency of £50,000. This was proposed, seconded and approved by majority.

The Budget was proposed, seconded and agreed. Members voted to send it to Full Council for approval.
The Precept of £1,149,307 that includes a contingency of £50,000 was proposed, seconded and agreed by majority vote. This will now go to Full Council for approval.

22/94/FCM ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS
Lead Councillor, Cllr Siggs, advised there was nothing new to report. The appointment of the new Archivist will be discussed in the new year.

22/95/FCM UNITARY AND ACQUISITIONS

The Town Clerk reported little progress at the last Clerks on-line meeting he attended on matters that affected Parish Councils. No new information on service and asset transfer is expected until April 2023.

22/96/FCM ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

The Town Clerk reported he had an initial meeting with the Twinning Association regarding a 40th Anniversary celebration being planned next year. A further meeting is planned for January when more details will be available.

22/97/FCM DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 12th January 2023

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: It is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it was proposed by the Chair that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended to allow a private report.

Minutes signed by The Chair: **Date:**