

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH MARCH 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk/RFO: S Luck
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
SCC Cllr: T Munt
3 members of public

23/22/FCM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Cllr I Von Mensenkampff

23/23/FCM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.

23/27/FCM

Cllrs Cursley and Welch declared a personal interest in Grant Application – Wells Rotary as they are both members.

Cllrs Cursley and Pullin declared a personal interest in Grant Application – Coronation Event Planning Committee, as they are part of the event committee.

23/24/FCM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2023:

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.
No matters arising.

23/25/FCM MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A short presentation was given by Community Groups Family Counselling Trust (Somerset) and The Hub of Creative Arts' Therapists. Both answered questions from the Committee. Grant decisions are recorded below.

23/26/FCM FINANCE

The Town Clerk presented the Finance Reports for February 2023 and answered questions. The accounts and all expenses for February 2023 were approved by the committee.

The Town Clerk updated members on cash flow and reserves.

The Town Clerk reported problems obtaining insurance. The new policy is due for renewal on 1st April 2023 and the new insurance company have highlighted areas of concern including petrol storage at the cemetery, cover for the Bishop's Barn and the need to upgrade the alarm system at the Town Hall. Advice and specifications of work required are being obtained along with cost implications. The Town Clerk will update members when more information received.

The King's Coronation Event Planning Committee had submitted a grant application to help with costs for the community event planned for Sunday 7th May. The event has received no other funding. As the request is not from a community group it was proposed by Cllr Siggs to allocate £500 from the Civic & Archives budget. This was agreed by the Committee.

23/27/FCM GRANT APPLICATIONS

- i. Musicians South West CIC – This application was declined, more information is required. Town Clerk to write and ask them to submit again in September

and attend the committee meeting to provide a presentation.

- ii. Wells Theatre Festival – A £500 grant was proposed, seconded and approved.
- iii. Family Counselling Trust (Somerset) – A £500 grant was proposed seconded and approved.
- iv. The Hub of Creative Arts’ Therapists – A £500 grant was proposed, seconded and approved.
- v. Wells Rotary – This application was declined.
- vi. Coronation Event Planning Committee – see Finance above.

23/28/FCM VAT REGISTRATION

- i. Update from the Town Clerk - Advice has been sought on the VAT registration. Changes will be made to the way the council submit VAT and charges will be adjusted where necessary. Training on exemptions and reporting is being sought.
- ii. Future commercial lets – The Town Clerk reported a request from staff to trial organising indoor/charity markets in house. The Town Hall has capacity on a Wednesday and income could be improved. The committee considered and discussed options and it was agreed to explore indoor markets on a trial basis.

23/29/FCM ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS

Lead Cllr Siggs gave an update on the following:

- i. Civic Review – work will start on the review after Easter. Members interested in taking part are asked to contact the Town Clerk.
- ii. The archives visit has been arranged for the 15th March to Wells Museum. To date 8 members have expressed an interest in attending.

23/30/FCM UNITARY AND ACQUISITIONS

The Town Clerk reported the latest Clerks briefing on future planning arrangements was cancelled due to IT problems and will be rearranged. The unitary council are hoping to commence the meeting for the new LCN’s in June/July.

23/31/FCM ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

None reported.

23/32/FCM DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 13th April 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:**