

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH JUNE 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani, S Cursley (Chair), G Folkard, T Pullin (Mayor), T Robbins, H Siggs, I Von Mensenkampff, P Welch

IN ATTENDANCE: Assistant Town Clerk: C Woodland
WCC Staff: S Glendinning
0 members of public

23/54/FCM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Town Clerk: S Luck

23/55/FCM TO APPOINT:
The following were proposed, seconded and elected:

- i The Finance & Council Matters Chair – Cllr Stewart Cursley
- ii The Finance & Council Matters Vice-Chair – Cllr Tony Robbins
- iii The Lead Councillor for Unitary & Acquisitions – Cllr Philip Welch
- iv The Deputy Lead Cllr for Unitary & Acquisitions – Cllr Isa Von Mensenkampff
- v The Lead Councillor for Archives & Civic Assets – Cllr Harvey Siggs
- vi The Deputy Lead Cllr for Archives & Civic Assets – Cllr Tony Robbins

23/56/FCM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.
None declared.

23/57/FCM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2023:
The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.
No matters arising.

23/58/FCM MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Not applicable.

23/59/FCM FINANCE
The Assistant Town Clerk presented the May 2023 accounts and answered questions. Further clarification will be provided on the following:

- The amount stated for 'British Gas' at the Portway Annexe, whether this figure is monthly or quarterly.
- If the Bandstand electricity costs are historic from MDC, should they be passed back.
- Should a reforecast of the budget be considered as some costs are exceeding funds allocated.
- The length of the new contract with Charis for the Ukrainian Hub was queried.
- It was questioned whether the Recreation Ground Trust was VAT registered.

The accounts and all expenses for May 2023 were approved by the committee.

23/60/FCM INTERNAL AUDIT 2022-23
The Assistant Town Clerk presented the Internal Audit papers. The audit had passed with minor recommendations which were explained.

It was suggested that the Internal Auditor, Martin Bowe be invited to Finance for the Committee to understand what is involved.

23/61/FCM EXTERNAL AUDIT 2023-24

The Assistant Town Clerk presented the External Audit papers which will be passed to Full Council.

23/62/FCM PORTWAY ANNEXE

The Assistant Town Clerk explained the Portway Annexe Income Expenditure predicted for 2023/24 which had been previously circulated by the Town Clerk. Cllrs Folkard and Siggs felt this was a start in separating out costs but more detail was required to clearly see who is responsible for what, where spending is taking place and whether each area is providing value for money.

23/63/FCM ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS

Lead Councillor Siggs gave an update:

- i. The Town Crier's uniform has now been received.
A meeting will take place with the Town Clerk to review the Archivist position and agree the way forward.
- ii. The Civic Review will now commence with the help of Cllr Cursley. Additional volunteers were invited to get involved.

23/64/FCM UNITARY AND ACQUISITIONS

Lead Councillor Welch advised he would be attending the Local Community Network meeting, arranged for Thursday 29th June in Priddy.

23/65/FCM ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

Cllr Welch advised discussion had begun to consider repeating the Wells Community Awards Event with the help of Andy Vallis at Wells Voice. It was requested for this to be included on the July agenda.

23/66/FCM DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 13th July 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:**