

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: S Cursley (Chair), H Siggs, I Von Mensenkampff, P Welch

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: S Luck  
WCC Cllrs: D Denis, S Powell  
Somerset Cllrs T Munt, T Butt Philip  
1 member of the Public

**23/102/FCM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Cllr: T Pullin (Mayor), G Folkard, L Agabani, T Robbins

**23/103/FCM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

None received

**23/104/FCM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023:**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

**23/105/FCM MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Cllr D Denis spoke about Youth provision and ways other councils had dealt with the matter and suggested ways to involve the schools etc.

Maddie Milne spoke about fuel poverty and how local people were affected and asked the Council to consider ways of helping.

**23/106/FCM FINANCE**

i. To receive the Finance Reports for October 2023

The Town Clerk presented the October monthly reports and clarified details when asked to do so by members. The accounts and expenses for October 2023 were approved by the committee

**23/107/FCM DRAFT BUDGET 2024-2025**

Before the draft budget was discussed Somerset Councillor T Butt Philip spoke to members regarding a letter that had been sent from Somerset to all Parishes about the financial situation at Somerset Council and how it could affect future service provision.

Parish Councils are being asked to consider a list of services they may wish to provide.

As details were unavailable as to the exact services on the list Somerset would not be doing next year, a budget contingency would be needed.

A long discussion took place and it was agreed the Town Clerk would come back to the next meeting with a priority list of services and costings if available for members to consider.

To receive the second draft budget

The Town Clerk presented the second draft budget and members agreed to the changes to the Insurance provision and alterations to the amount for Youth Provision, the final draft budget will be presented in December along with if possible a Precept figure.

If due to the ongoing service provision discussions a delay to Precept setting to the end of January may be needed to be agreed with Somerset.

**23/108/FCM CITIZENS ADVICE APPLICATION FOR LOCAL FUNDING**

- i. Funding application letter  
The grant for 2023-24 was approved.
  
- ii. Citizens Advice Somerset two-year plan  
The plan was noted by the Committee.

**23/109/FCM ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS**

Cllr H Siggs reported the Civic Review was still being worked on and updated.

**23/110/FCM UNITARY AND ACQUISITIONS**

Cllr Welch reported the next LCN meeting will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and as he was unable to attend a Councillor was being sort to attend in his place.  
All other Unitary matters were being considered as part of the budget process.

**23/111/FCM ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

No matters raised.

**23/112/FCM DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 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:** .....