

**WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 20th
SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs: J North (Vice Chairman) in the Chair;
M Brandon (The Mayor); T Butt Philip (Deputy-Mayor); D Unwin;
C Price; G Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White; RFO: S Luck.
1 member of the public

12/97F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: T Robbins; Cllr Butt Phillip would arrive later;
Cllr Brandon (the Mayor) would have to leave early to attend a Mayoral function.

12/98F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors North and Unwin each declared an interest in Item 8, (Skate Park), as Members of Mendip District Council; both Councillors left the room while this item was dealt with.

12/99F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th JULY 2012

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

12/100F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A member of the public asked whether expenditure on District Council projects taking place at Shepton Mallet would affect Wells and its residents. Cllr North replied that there will be no impact on Wells, or the services.

12/101F FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. The accounts had been scrutinised and bank statements checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for July and August 2012 were proposed, seconded and approved.

Councillors noted that income from Town Hall lettings for August was up on last year, a particular achievement at this time.

- ii. To note conclusion of annual audit of accounts for year ended 31st March 2012: The clear external audit certificate was received and adopted. Public notification has been given and the process is complete.

The RFO was thanked for all his hard work.

(Cllr Butt Philip arrived)

12/102F ANNUAL REVIEWS

To receive reviews of Standing Orders and other procedural matters and make recommendations to Council:

A draft Committee Delegation Scheme was presented for consideration; all the proposed revisions were approved.

The Mayor raised the matter of use of delegated powers between Planning Committee meetings. Following a discussion, the Town Clerk was asked to prepare appropriate wording to cover the notification of members when delegated authority was to be used between meetings. This matter to be brought back to the next meeting - it was agreed not to send a recommendation to Council until the matter of Planning Committee delegation had been settled.

12/103F ROOF VOID INSULATION

To consider and approve quotes: After consideration a quote was proposed, seconded and agreed; the RFO was instructed how to proceed.

12/104F SKATEPARK

To receive reports, approve proposals and quotes:

It was 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, due to the confidential nature of the item involving contracts and legal matters: Resolved.

The public left the room.

Cllrs North and Unwin both left to room until after the close of this item.

Cllr Butt Philip was selected to take the Chair for the item.

The Town Clerk and RFO presented information, reports and proposals regarding the immediate, medium-term and long-term situations in relation to the Skate Park; the legal responsibilities of the City Council and contractual relationships; the maintenance of the whole site and the current condition of the ramps.

Three quotes had been obtained for resurfacing the skate ramps; it was agreed which would be most appropriate to accept. Some funds are already ear-marked in the City Council accounts; Wells Action has made a donation, it is anticipated there may be some other available funding sources.

Following a very lengthy and detailed discussion of all the issues and various possible courses of action, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the shortfall of approximately £3,800 will be met from City Council reserves if necessary.

The Committee approved the Officers' current approach regarding the medium- and longer-term arrangements and they were instructed to continue.

12/105F Cllrs North and Unwin returned to the meeting and Cllr North resumed the Chair. The meeting resumed in open session.

LED FEASIBILITY STUDY

To receive information and approve proposals.

It was agreed the council would wish to reduce its carbon footprint and to set an example in so-doing. The cost savings would equalise after some years. After consideration it was proposed, seconded and agreed to adopt a policy of transferring to LED lighting on a rolling program, replacing existing units with LEDs as they fail.

12/106F FUNDING APPLICATION (OTHER BODIES)

Wells Museum (LGA 1972 s144,145)

The request was proposed, seconded and approved.

12/107F COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

i. Wells Carnival Committee (LGA 1972 s144,145)

Refused, due to lack of information; invited to re-submit.

ii. Life Education Wessex (LGA 1972 s137)

After consideration of funding issues the request was proposed, seconded and approved.

12/108F COMMUNITY ENABLEMENT FUND (Somerset County Council)

Information about the Fund had been circulated to all Councillors.

Officers outlined a project which was given full support by the committee; the Ward County Councillor has been informed and has indicated his initial approval of the concept; the Officers were asked to work up a full proposal and present to the next meeting.

12/109F ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Cllr Unwin reported on a small funding stream becoming available to District Councillors in the near future, for use in their ward or parish area.
- ii. Cllr Robbins had asked for it to be reported that the Crown Court Working Group will report to the City Council meeting as soon as possible, for the Project to be referred back to the Finance and General Purposes Committee thereafter. Members welcomed this news.
- iii. Cllr North as did Cllr Unwin gave their apologies for the next City Council meeting as they would be attending the District Council meeting.

12/110F DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 11th October at 7.00pm