

## WELLS CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: M Brandon; C Briton; J North (Deputy Mayor); T Robbins (Chairman);  
D Swain (Vice-Chairman)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: F White  
RFO: S Luck

**16/78F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Cllrs: J Ludovino; C Price; H Siggs; G Wilson

**16/79F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012:  
Cllr North declared a personal interest as member, in any matter relating to Mendip District Council, to Wells Recreation Ground Trust as Chairman, and as MDC representative to the Wells Sports Clubs.

**16/80F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016** Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.  
Matter Arising  
16/71Fii. The RFO has met with the organiser of the Reindeer Parade and arranged for the Council to support the event by taking an advertisement placement on the full back page of the brochure.

**16/81F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
None present.

**16/82F FINANCE REPORT**

- i. To receive the financial reports for July and August 2016  
The bank statements and accounts had been checked prior to the meeting. The accounts for July and August 2016 were proposed, seconded and approved.
- ii. Insurance rents The RFO reported on arrangements agreed and repayments received, in line with the insurance rent clause in council leases.
- iii. Utility payment comparisons The RFO circulated comparison figures showing savings made in recent years.
- iv. To receive the annual report from the external auditor
- v. The Council has received a clear audit once again. The Town Clerk and RFO were thanked for all their work in helping to achieve this.
- vi. Skate Park Approval was sought to release funding for essential repairs to ramps; (Wells Rotary Club has been informed): Approved.

**16/83F COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION**  
Wells Football Club: £500  
Approved, with conditions.

16/84F

## DEPUTY MAYOR'S PROJECT

Cllr North spoke about his proposals for the opening of the new destination play area at the Wells Recreation Ground. It is intended that the Mayor and City Council will be invited to attend this as a civic event, processing from the Town Hall with guests, for a formal opening. Cllr North asked for support for the event in principle, and if possible, a contribution to hospitality for the civic guests, in the Bishop's Barn.

Cllr North said that there is some funding available for an event to promote Health and Well-Being in the Mendip towns; this funding comes from County, channelled through the District Council, however, it can only be released through the local (City) Council. He is hoping to provide a Family Fun and Fitness Day with the opening of the destination play area, to promote the profile of the City both locally and as a tourist destination. He is therefore asking for the City Council to provide an element of involvement in organising the event, so as to utilise the funding and make a high profile event for the City.

The Chairman reminded the committee that any civic event must be approved by full council; any such invitation should be sent initially to the Mayor.

The committee agreed they would be happy for the Health and Well-Being grant to be received and utilised for the event, subject to full Council's instruction. Cllr Robbins offered to assist Cllr North with the organisation, should Council approve it.

16/85F

## ANNUAL REVIEWS

- i. To approve the **schedule of annual reviews for the Council year 2016-17**: Proposed, seconded and approved
- ii. To approve **Financial Regulations and amend Standing Order 18**: Proposed, seconded and approved
  - making recommendations to Council:

### RECOMMENDED

**To adopt the above documents and amend standing order 18 as presented.**

16/86F

## TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENTS

- i. To consider quotes in respect of replacing floors in public areas.  
(capital projects budget)

The RFO explained the floor areas to be dealt with, the conditions, relevant materials and project constraints. Three quotes were presented; one quote was proposed, seconded and approved for acceptance.

- ii. To consider quotes in respect of main hall decoration  
(Repairs and maintenance budgets)

The RFO presented quotes, with details of the project constraints, methods and materials.

One quote was proposed, seconded and approved for acceptance.

16/87F

## PROPERTIES

- i. Wells Post Office

The Town Clerk reported there has been no further contact from Post Office Ltd. The City Council's offer of a six month extension to the lease was not taken up. The three month extension signed will expire on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The Town Clerk was asked to write to Post Office Ltd asking what their intention is and obtain clarification of the legal position regarding lease extensions.

- ii. Public toilets at Princes Road bus station

The Town Clerk took instruction on details regarding the terms of the lease. The target start date is 31<sup>st</sup> October.

(Cllr North took no part in the discussion)

**16/88F**

**WELLS RECREATION GROUND TRUST**

Nothing to report. The City Council is awaiting further contact from the Trustees.

**16/89F**

**MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT**

Cllr North: Clarification regarding members' expenses.

**16/90F**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING : 7pm Thursday 13th October 2016**