

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE EAST ROOM, WELLS TOWN HALL, ON THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: L Agabani, P Crummay, S Cursley, N Kennedy (Vice-Chairman),
J Osman (Mayor), P Welch (Deputy Mayor),

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Town Clerk/RFO, S Luck
Cllrs: J Linsdell, J Rust, A Fawcett, A l'Anson
SCC Cllr T Munt
6 members of the Public

In the absence of Cllr Robbins Cllr Kennedy took the Chair

19/71F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Town Clerk, F White
Cllrs: T Robbins (Chairman), C Wride

19/72F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012.
None declared.

19/73F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JULY 2019:
Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

19/74F MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
A member of the public asked details on the structure of the Post Office in Wells and Cllr Agabani offered to explain this after the meeting.
A representative from Wells Lions Club gave a presentation and answered questions from members on their grant application for a Diabetes Awareness Day at the Town Hall.
A representative from the Southover Heritage Project Day gave a presentation and answered questions on their grant application for their Heritage event. The request has been reduced from £250 to £150 due to securing other funding.

19/75F FINANCE REPORT

- i. To receive the Finance Reports for July and August 2019
The bank accounts were checked prior to the meeting by Cllr Crummay.
The RFO answered questions from members on the accounts.
The accounts for July and August were proposed, seconded and approved.
- ii. To receive the External Audit Report
The RFO reported the Council had received a clear audit from the external auditor for year 2018/19 for accounts and governance. Noted.

19/76F BUDGET 2020 - 2021
Arrangements for budget setting were agreed. First draft will be considered by the committee in November with the final budget agreed at the December meeting ready to present to full council that month. The precept demand has to be presented to MDC in January.
The RFO will be requesting budget figures from all committees in the next month.

19/77F

COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATIONS

- i. Wells Lions Club, A £300 grant was proposed, seconded and agreed.
- ii. Southover Community Heritage Project, a £150 grant was proposed, seconded and agreed.

19/78F

TOURISM GRANT

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the two years grant totalling £6,000 for Tourism to the Museum as agreed in last year's budget.

19/79F

WEEKEND VISIT OF THE SINDICO OF FONTANELLATO FOR WELLS CARNIVAL

A visit from the Sindico of Fontanellato was being arranged for November. The Twinning Association requested Council share the costs of hospitality. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to provide £451 from the hospitality budget towards the cost of the visit.

19/80F

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP UPDATE

The report had been circulated and Cllr Agabani answered questions from members. Options for a new website and other projects were being considered. It was agreed the communications group would report back to the next meeting and consider budget requests for the next financial year.

19/81F

ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

The RFO reported,

- i. The Town Hall Clock project was in the process of completion, the clock would be fitted in the coming days and the memorial plaque had been ordered.
- ii. The Red Phone Box had been fixed outside the Town Hall, glazed and was ready for the defibrillator to be fitted in a joint project with Wells Rotary Club.
- iii. The quotes had now been received to place a water refill station outside the Town Hall. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the £2,300 cost.
- iv. A request had been received to use the Town Hall for a public meeting for the Solar Streets Project. A free let was agreed.

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be considered, involving contracts, 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.

19/82F

PROPERTIES.

The RFO updated members on a lease for a Council property. It was agreed to work with the current occupier.

19/83F

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In the absence of the Chairman the Mayor Cllr Osman updated members on an ongoing confidential staff matter.

19/84F

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Thursday 10th October 2019