

WELLS CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2022 AT 7:00PM IN WELLS TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs: J Browne, S Cursley (Deputy Mayor & Chair), S Johns, T Robbins, J Rust, P Welch (Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk/RFO, S Luck
WCC Staff, S Glendinning
SCC Cllr T Munt
10 members of the public

No attendance: Cllr J Osman

22/25FCM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllr N Kennedy

22/26FCM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 26th July 2012.

Cllr P Welch (Mayor) declared a personal interest in 22/30FCM ii Wells Food Network, Somerset Food Trail, and iii City of Wells Lions Club

Cllr Rust declared a personal interest in 22/31FCM b) as a trustee of the Wells & Mendip Museum.

22/27FCM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2022:

The minutes had already been presented at Full Council and an amendment was agreed to 22/20FCM. Cllr Johns had abstained from voting on the Platinum Jubilee grant application.

The updated minutes of the previous meeting were approved for signing by the Chair.

22/28FCM MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Representatives from Wells Theatre Festival, Wells Food Network & Somerset Food Trail, City of Wells Lions Club and Somerset Family Counselling Trust all gave a presentation and answered questions from the committee to support their grant application.

22/29FCM FINANCE

The Town Clerk presented the Finance Reports for February 2022.

The bank statements were checked prior to the meeting by Cllr Robbins.

The Solicitors have now taken action over the lease/non-payment of the Old Post Office. The Town Clerk will keep the committee updated.

22/30FCM GRANT APPLICATIONS

- i. Wells Theatre Festival
A £500 grant was proposed, seconded and approved
- ii. Wells Food Network, Somerset Food Trail
A £500 grant was proposed, seconded and approved
- iii. City of Wells Lions Club
A £160 grant was proposed towards the free let of the Town Hall. Two voted against, 3 voted in favour, approved
- iv. Somerset Family Counselling Trust
A £500 grant was proposed, seconded and approved

22/31FCM a) ARCHIVES & CIVIC ASSETS

The Town Clerk gave an update. As the existing Archivist, Dr J Wood, is retiring end April the job vacancy has been advertised.

The Town Clerk has had a meeting with Veronica Howe, Archivist at Wells Cathedral, who is helping to look at the 'modern' archives (1974 onwards). We need a new system to store and preserve. The Town Clerk will keep the committee updated.

b) WELLS CITY COUNCIL GRANT TO WELLS & MENDIP MUSEUM 2021-2022

A £3,000 grant was proposed, seconded and approved. Cllr Rust abstained from voting as she is a trustee of the museum.

22/32FCM QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – FINANCIAL GRANT FROM WELLS CITY COUNCIL

A thank you note had been received from Wells Rotary following the award of a £1,000 grant towards the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

22/33FCM UNITARY AND ACQUISITIONS

The Town Clerk has had another meeting and more emphasis will now be placed on the service and asset transfer over the next 2/3 months. He will continue to update the committee.

22/34FCM STAFFING

Lead Councillor T Robbins gave an update.

The Facility & Administration Officer is now back at work part time, following his recent operation.

As stated above, the Archivist position has been advertised.

An Outside Spaces Development Officer has also been advertised.

22/35FCM ANY MATTERS OF URGENT REPORT

None

22/36FCM DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 14th April 2022, 7pm

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 property report.

Minutes signed by The Chair: **Date:**