

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT UNTIED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023 AT 3.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Chair),
Councillors A Govier, J Lloyd, M McGuffie (from minute 234 a iii) and J Thorne

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor C Govier
Alice Kendall – Deputy Clerk
Three members of the public
One member of the press

278 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

279 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Lloyd and A Govier have a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, being a former customer of the company.

Councillor Thorne has a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, being a personal friend of the company owner.

In addition to the above, Councillor Thorne declared a personal interest in a line item on 5b (expenditure) as he is a committee member of the Community Centre. Councillor A Govier declared personal interests in the grant applications from Life Education Wessex (having previously supported them with funding) and Street Pastors (as a member of one of the Churches involved).

At this juncture, Councillor C Govier arrived at the meeting.

280 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The three members of the public present were representatives from two of the grant applicants. The Chair welcomed them and explained he would suspend standing orders at the appropriate point in the agenda if needed.

281 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023.

282 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

a. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 4 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED to note and approve the bank reconciliation as presented.

b. TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR 6 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED to note and approve the expenditure as presented.

Councillor Thorne asked for more information on the current situation with the phone and broadband contract and why a pole was installed for the green corridor water signage. These will be passed to the Clerk for reply.

c. TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME RECEIVED FOR 6 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED to note and approve the income as presented.

d. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AGAINST THE BUDGET AT 5 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED to note and approve the budget report as presented.

Councillor Lloyd asked about the receipt of the Parish Grant. The Deputy Clerk informed the meeting that the remittance was received the day following the issue of the agenda. It is understood that the grants will be issued for the final time this year.

283 GRANTS

The summary of grants made to date was noted.

(a) Applications

- i. **Life Education Wessex** – An application had been received from Life Education Wessex for £310 towards their ‘helping children make healthy choices’ sessions. The application and supporting documents were circulated to Councillors by e-mail.

RESOLVED to approve a grant for £310.

- ii. **Wellington Street Pastors** – An application for £2,000 had been received to provide support for the organisation’s activities. The application and supporting documents were circulated by e-mail in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED to approve a grant of £2,000.

- iii. **Levels Climate Forum / Somerset Conference of the Parishes on Climate Change** – An application has been received requesting funding of £408 for hall hire at Wellington School to host the abovementioned conference. The application and supporting documents were circulated by e-mail in advance of the meeting.

During this item, Councillor McGuffie arrived at the meeting.

RESOLVED to refuse the grant request. The activity was supported in principle, but the Committee felt that more discussion was required with the applicant as the group do not have a constitution or bank account.

iv. **Wellington Home Ed** – The group had applied for a grant of £240. The application form has been circulated by e-mail.

RESOLVED to award funding up to £240. As the group currently do not have a constitution or their own bank account, the Deputy Clerk will administer payments on their behalf on presentation of receipts/invoices. As the group plan to set up the required accounts, it was agreed that any balance remaining would be paid to them once an account is open.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.55 pm.

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Councillor Mark Lithgow
Chairman