

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD AT 8.20PM ON MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr C Gorst

Cllrs. L A Clarke, Mrs J Saunders and A Smith

Also attending under SO 53: Cllrs. Mrs S Horsman, P Hoyland, and R E West

28. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs G Bartos, M Beanland and G Smith

29. Requests for Dispensations

The Clerk provided an understanding of Requests for Dispensations. He explained that if there are any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they should already be recorded in the Register of Members' Interests. For any non-pecuniary interests Councillors need to be guided by the Nolan Principles embodied in the new Code of Conduct adopted by the Town Council in September 2012. If there are any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests that have not previously been included in the Register they then need to be declared at this point, as well as any Requests for Dispensations in regard to such Interests.

30. Minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)**

31. Payment Schedule for October 2012

Cllr Clarke requested the entry for L Clarke is made clearer in future to avoid any confusion with himself. The Clerk clarified that the entry was for a Les Clarke, a temporary stand in for the Operations Officer role, and this is the final time it will appear in the Payment Schedule.

**RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedule for October 2012 is received (NC)**

### 32. Quality Parish Status

The Clerk provided a written brief concerning Quality Parish Status. He recommended that the Town Council await the outcome of the Quality Council consultation to decide whether or not it would benefit the Town Council to be re-accredited with such Status. This would also depend on the revised terms of the Quality Council Status.

The meeting recognised that Poynton Town Council were the first to gain Quality Council Status in Cheshire. The Chairman asked if there would be any reason not to apply for re-accreditation. The Clerk explained that it would be important to understand the revised terms of the scheme, understand objectively the benefits it would bring to this Council, and also to understand the workload involved in re-applying. The Chairman noted that the application form itself did not appear too arduous. The Clerk was not sure about this, and explained for example that submission of hard copies of all the Town Council records for the civic year would be required.

**RESOLVED: That the report by the Clerk is received, and that his recommendation is approved, namely to defer further discussion until the outcome of the consultation is known (NC)**

### 33. Medium Term Capital Programme for the Town Council and Town Council Reserves

The meeting discussed the revised Medium Term Capital Programme for the Town Council and a listing of the current Town Council Reserves. The Clerk highlighted that he had allowed for an increased amount of funding for the proposed alterations to the Civic Hall side, arising from the Civic Hall/Library complex project.

The new item in the Programme is the installation of security fencing at Barnaby Park. The Clerk also outlined the Special Earmarked Reserves. Funding was required for the CAB service, the Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator and a fifth PCSO in the near future. Cllr Clarke noted that funds from the COPS reserve have in the past also been used to help deal the issue of graffiti. The Chairman suggested that there should be specific allocation for the Adult Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator and provision for an additional PCSO instead of these items being a charge to the reserves. The Clerk explained that there will be a need to revisit the 2013/14 budget and precept level.

On the Civic Hall Maintenance Reserve the Clerk explained that there will be a call on these funds towards refurbishing/replacing the roof. A healthy level of ear- marked reserve for the Civic Hall is therefore necessary.

**RESOLVED: That the report on the revised Medium Term Capital Programme for the Town Council and a listing of the current Town Council Special Earmarked Reserves are received (NC)**

34. National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Policy Briefing on Precept Setting for 2013/14

This paper advises that no precept should be formally approved until after the publication of the Draft Local Government Finance Report, and that each local council should also wait for the Tax Base figures to be issued by the Billing Authorities. The Town Council had already resolved not to set its precept level for 2013/14 until January 2013.

**RESOLVED: That the NALC Policy Briefing on Precept Setting for 2013/14 is received (NC)**

35. Visitor Economy Project

The Chairman provided a written update on the Visitor Economy Project. Cllr Hoyland said that Mr Bailey of the Trading Post at Nelson Pit is prepared to display the PUN. The Chairman informed members that he too had visited the Trading Post, and that Mr Bailey had also agreed to display walk leaflets. The Chairman went on to confirm that he had recently spoken to Mark Ashton – he has taken over from Nancy Hopkins, Visitor Economy Officer at CE - and he would like to him to address a future meeting on the visitor economy.

The Clerk said there are three new Town Council notice boards to be installed. The Operations and Events Manager will shortly be recommending where to site these. Cllr Saunders said that it might be helpful to state that hard copies of the PUN are available from the Civic Hall. Cllr Clarke suggested installing a notice board at the junction of Dickens Lane and Copperfield Road as an area where there was significant footfall.

**RESOLVED: That the report of the Visitor Economy Project is received and that a notice board is installed at the junction of Dickens Lane and Copperfield Road (NC)**

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm