

Main issues covered: Payment Schedules/ Buxton Rail Line/ Co-op Fixed Rate Deposit Account

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 10TH JUNE 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr M Beanland

Cllrs. G Bartos, L A Clarke, A Smith and G Smith

Attending under SO 54: Cllr Mrs S Horsman, substituting for Cllr Mrs J Saunders

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. C Gorst, H Murray, Mrs J Saunders and M C G Sewart

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd April 2013

Page 276 – On the issue of business mileage, the Clerk confirmed that, with immediate effect, the standard mileage claim will be 45p per mile, the HMRC approved rate. This increases to 50p per mile if a passenger is carried.

Page 277 – The Clerk confirmed that the Financial Statements for FY 2012/13 were signed by the Mayor.

Page 277 – The £2,800 payment from Disley for PCSO funding has not been received to date.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 22nd April 2013 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)

4. Payment Schedules for April and May 2013

The Chairman asked if the £725 payment to the firm 'No Graffiti' was a one off payment. The Clerk clarified that this comprises a year's retainer of £600 plus £125 VAT.

Incline Tree Damage

The Clerk explained that this matter is being pursued at present. This issue was raised at the last FIED meeting. The Clerk has paid a site visit to the owner of The Grange at South Park Drive and has encouraged him to submit an insurance claim against his own insurers.

Poynton Jemmers

The Clerk said this was not a S137 grant, but instead made use of the Town Council's newly acquired General Power of Competence. S137 is a means by which expenditure can be incurred when no other power is available, and it is subject to a cash limit per resident. Under the General Power of Competence there is no upper limit.

RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedules for April and May 2013 be received and signed by the Chairman, with the adjustment made to the accounts for the Jemmers Community Grant (NC)

5. Bank Reconciliation for end-April 2013

RESOLVED: That the Bank Reconciliation for end-April 2013 is received and signed by the Chairman (NC)

6. Buxton Rail Line; Department for Transport Consultation

The Clerk explained that the proposed draft letter had been prepared by Cllr Gorst. The Department for Transport proposal is to designate the Buxton Line as a community rail service. Designation as a community rail service is intended to improve the financial performance, value for money and social value of the railways to help make sure of their long term future. Separate designation gives us the freedom and flexibility to try a new approach to achieve these aims. It also provides access to small scale additional funding.

Cllr Gorst is effectively endorsing this proposition and by coincidence Cheshire East has also expressed an interest recently in the potential of Middlewood Station, which is on the Buxton Line. They are keen to take this forward not least as a means of mitigation in terms of the A6 to Manchester Relief Road, as mentioned in the draft letter. It is also being proposed that if this draft letter is approved, a copy will be sent to the Leader of the CE Council so that they have the opportunity to respond on similar lines. Furthermore it is proposed that the Town Council involves Cheshire East on further discussion about Middlewood to realise the full potential of this station by improving its infrastructure.

The Chairman asked if the P1 travels to Middlewood Station. The Clerk explained that at present the bus stops short of the station but there would be no difficulty in adjusting the route in future. Cllr G Smith added that the lack of car parking and the turning circle for the bus restricts this at present. These

are issues that hopefully will be considered in further discussions with Cheshire East.

RESOLVED: That the written and verbal briefs are received; that the response to the Department for Transport's consultation is approved and that a copy is sent to the CE Leader of the Council (NC)

7. Fixed Rate Deposit Account

The Clerk explained details in his written brief concerning the Town Council's Fixed Rate Deposit Account with the Co-op Bank. Members discussed the possibilities, considering risk and credit ratings of financial institutions. Before the funds are reinvested it was agreed that alternative financial institutions should be investigated. Members also agreed that the funds from the Co-op be withdrawn on maturity and invested in two separate amounts. Cllr Clarke thought it important to ensure that the banks used are not part of the same financial establishment. Cllr Clarke proposed that a report be prepared for the 22nd July F&GP meeting with information about the interest rates and credit ratings of various financial institutions, and that the Co-op funds are split and invested in two separate and unconnected financial institutions.

RESOLVED: That the written brief from the Clerk is received; that a report is prepared for the F&GP meeting on 22nd July 2013 providing detail of interest rates and credit ratings for various financial institutions (NC)

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm