

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2015 IN THE
CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr C Gorst

Cllrs: M Beanland, L A Clarke, Mrs R Horsman-Johnson, G King, H Murray, L Podmore, Mrs J Saunders and G Smith

31. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

32. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs T Lorde

33. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None.

34. Previous meeting minutes

The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2nd November 2015 were approved.

The Bank Reconciliation for September 2015 was unavailable for this meeting and deferred to the next F&GP meeting.

The Clerk will contact ChALC on the issue of a credit card for Town Council business use.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2nd November 2015 are approved as an accurate record (7 for, 2 abstentions)

35. Payment of the second (and final) instalment for the Civic Hall Refurbishment (Financial Regulations SO 6.1d)

The committee received a report on the Civic Hall refurbishments compiled by the Clerk in liaison with the former Clerk who project managed the Civic Hall Refurbishment work.

From discussion members agreed that before making the final payment the Town Council should ensure that there are no defects and that there is a procedure in place for any recourse for repairs. There was a concern about a

leak in a meeting room. It is necessary to clarify if this leak is due to the roof replacement work or the recent refurbishment work.

The following proposal was received:

- The committee authorise the Chairman and the Clerk to make the final payment once the issue with the roof lights has been resolved to their satisfaction.
- At a future meeting of the F&GP committee the relevant section (retention clause) of the contract for repairs is received.

The Chairman confirmed that there is a procedure in place to ensure any future defects are rectified by the contractor.

RESOLVED: That the proposal as stated is approved (NC)

36. Receive and note an email dated 29th October 2015 from Cllr Peter Groves, CE Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets, concerning the 2016/17 Precept and Council Tax Support Grant and the reply sent about the cessation of the payment

RESOLVED: That the email from Cllr Peter Groves, CE Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets is received and noted (NC)

37. Review the F&GP provisional budget for 2016/17

From the review of the F&GP provisional budget for 2016/17 the following points were noted:

Cost of Telephone

The Clerk is due to meet with the telephone company and will address the cost with the provider.

Cllr King declared a conflict of interest on discussions of the web provider and left the meeting for this item.

Webmaster

The Clerk stated that the Webmaster provides an efficient service, including updating the website and future ideas for improving the website. Following discussion the committee agreed that the Town Council would remain with the current Webmaster provision and will review this service again next year.

Cllr King rejoined the meeting.

CAB

From discussion of the CAB costs it was noted that grants have become difficult to obtain and community grants have been withdrawn. The committee members agreed the following proposal:

- Establish information on the profile / breakdown of users of the CAB (i.e. age group, geographical area).
- CAB Area Manager is invited to make a presentation to the committee.
- Following the presentation by the CAB Area Manager the committee discuss ideas for future CAB funding.

RESOLVED: That the proposal for the CAB provision is approved (NC)

It was proposed that there is a reduction to the transfer to the RCF (Rolling Capital Fund) from £25,000 to £20,000.

RESOLVED: That the proposal to reduce the RCF is approved (NC)

Committee members noted that the increases in the Town Council precept are due to cascading costs from Cheshire East to the Town Council. The increases are due to costs that have been imposed on the Town Council these include the cost of PCSO's, CCTV, Christmas Lights for local businesses, Air Quality Monitor and the withdrawal of the Precept and Council Tax Support Grant amongst others.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Clarke along with the Clerk writes to Mr David Rutley MP to request a proportion of the business rates to be retained by town and parish councils. (NC)

RESOLVED: That the review of the F&GP provisional budget for 2016/17 is approved (NC)

38. Approve the revisions to the Town Council's Financial Regulations by the Task and Finish group

The revisions to the Town Council's Financial Regulations by the Task and Finish group were approved with an amendment to retain the word "policy" in Part D, Clause 6.3,

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Town Council's Financial Regulations by the Task and Finish group, subject to the agreed amendment, were approved (NC)

39. To note the Bank Reconciliation for September and October 2015, to be signed by the Chairman

The Bank Reconciliation for September 2015 was deferred to the next F&GP committee meeting. This information was unavailable due to the indisposition of a member of staff.

The Bank Reconciliation for October 2015 was signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: That the Bank Reconciliation for September 2015 is deferred to be received at the next F&GP meeting. That the Bank Reconciliation for October 2015 is received (NC)

40. Payment Schedule for October 2015

RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedule for October 2015 is received.

Meeting End Time: 8.55pm