

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT 8.15PM ON MONDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT THE
CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr M Beanland

Cllrs: L A Clarke, G King, L Podmore, Mrs J Saunders and G Smith

41. Questions from members of the public

There were none present.

42. Apologies for absence

Cllrs C Gorst, Mrs R Horsman-Johnson, Mrs T Lorde and H Murray

43. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

Cllr Beanland declared an interest in Item 6, Staffing issues and left the meeting for that item.

44. Previous meeting minutes

It was confirmed that the Town Council have appointed Montague Evans with regard to the non-domestic business rates.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 31st October 2016 are approved as an accurate record (NC)

45. Receive and note the letter from Cllr Peter Groves, CE Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets, concerning the 2017/2018 Precept and Tax Base Arrangements

The following points were noted in reference to the correspondence received:

- That the Council tax base has increased.
- This increase is due to an increase in housing.
- This is further evidence that a number of houses have been built and occupied in the last 12 months in Poynton.
- This information supports the false statements made at the recent public enquiry.

The following proposal was received:

- That the Deputy Clerk write to Mr Adrian Fisher including this correspondence noting that this demonstrates that the number of houses in Poynton have increased significantly in the last year.
- That the Town Council respond to the correspondence to request information on the number of additional houses in Poynton. The Deputy Clerk will research this information further.

RESOLVED: That that correspondence is received. That the proposal as stated is approved (NC)

46. Review the F&GP provisional budget for 2017/2018

Cllr Beanland left the meeting for consideration of Staffing issues.

Cllr Clarke was proposed as the Chair.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Clarke is Chair for staffing related issues (NC)

Cllr King declared an interest in discussion of Poynton in Bloom.

It was proposed and agreed that the Deputy Clerk liaises with Poynton in Bloom and that the Poynton in Bloom budget is retained as it is as present with delegated authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to vary the budget. That the Operations Manager is requested to investigate the condition of the area at Burton Drive and forward this report to be considered by the FIED committee.

Cllr Beanland rejoined the meeting and continued to Chair the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the budget as amended is recommended (NC)

47. Receive and consider the draft format for budget reporting for 2017/2018

RESOLVED: That the draft format for budget reporting for 2017/2018, with an amendment to include a summary commentary, is approved (NC)

48. Receive and consider the interim internal audit report

RESOLVED: That this item is deferred until the interim internal audit report becomes available (NC)

49. Receive and consider a report from the Deputy Town Clerk in relation to licensing

The Deputy Clerk spoke on the written report which provides details on the new exemptions and the options for licensing.

RESOLVED: That the report regarding licensing is received. That Option 1 is approved with the recommendation that other options are considered (NC)

50. Review the community grant awarding policy and consider the draft monitoring form

Members reviewed the community grant awarding policy and considered the draft monitoring form. The following points were agreed:

- Amend to include “*approximate*” and “*if possible*” about the proportion of residents from Poynton.
- That a statement about the availability of community grants will be published on the Town Council website with the contact details of the Clerk.
- That information on successful bids is included on the Town Council website.
- To note the public recognition of the Town Council contribution.
- To add a note requesting that unspent grant funds are returned to the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That the community grant awarding policy and draft monitoring form is reviewed and approved with the amendments as noted (NC)

51. Note the bank reconciliation for October 2016 as verified by the Chairman

RESOLVED: That the bank reconciliation for October 2016 as verified by the Chairman is noted (NC)

52. Receive the payment schedule for October 2016

RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedule for October 2016 is received and approved (NC)

53. Consider and agree any communication messages arising from this meeting

RESOLVED: That the upgrade to the Town Council website regarding the community grant information is approved as the communication message arising from this meeting (NC)

Meeting End Time: 9.10pm