

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2017 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr C Gorst

Cllrs: M Beanland, L A Clarke, H Murray, G King, L Podmore, and Mrs J Saunders

41. Anyone attending or present at the committee meeting declares that they are making, or intend to make, an audio recording and/or film the meeting

The shorthand assistant confirmed that the meeting is recorded for the purposes of minute taking and the recording is deleted within a week when the draft minutes are produced.

There were no other declarations of a recording of the meeting.

42. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

43. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Mrs R Horsman-Johnson and G Smith.

44. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

None.

45. Approve as an accurate record the minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held 2nd October 2017

In regard to S106 monies, the committee were informed that there are S106 monies available however it is tied to localities. The monies are generally under the remit of the Cheshire East Ward councillors and can be assigned to projects. There has to be mitigation within the allocated area. The monies available are not vast.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held 2nd October 2017 are approved as an accurate record (NC)

46. Receive and note the payment schedules for September 2017

RESOLVED: That the payment schedule for September 2017 is received and noted (NC)

47. Note the bank reconciliation for September 2017 as verified by the Chairman

RESOLVED: That the bank reconciliation for September 2017 as verified by the Chairman is noted (NC)

48. Receive and consider a report from the town clerk on a review of the town council's current budget for the financial year 2017-18 at mid-year.

The deputy clerk spoke on the report from the town clerk on a review of the town council's current budget for the financial year 2017/18 at mid-year. In addition to the points highlighted the following issues were noted:

Hall bookings

The deputy clerk confirmed that the income is higher than the budget. Income is at 50% compared to 32% for the same time last year. All staff work hard to address hirers' needs.

Electricity

There is an issue whereby despite the submission of meter readings to the utility company the town council continue to receive large estimated bills. The deputy clerk is investigating the issue and will find out if a smart meter can be installed to help address the matter.

Security

There is an annual fee for the maintenance of the alarm with some funding allocated for fire extinguishers. There has been some work completed on fire extinguishers and it is anticipated the costs will remain on budget.

Bar Income

The income for the bar has been poor. The deputy clerk confirmed that there are clear terms and conditions in place for hirers.

The deputy clerk confirmed that there are no areas of concern. Members thanked the clerk and deputy clerk for the excellent report.

RESOLVED: That the report from the town clerk on a review of the town council's current budget for the financial year 2017-18 at mid-year is received (NC)

49. Receive and consider a report from the clerk on the town council's reserves and a preview of the town council's 2018-19 provisional budget.

The deputy clerk spoke on the report from the clerk on the town council's reserves and a preview of the town council's 2018-19 provisional budget. In addition to the points highlighted the following issues were noted:

There is a considerable impact on the budget from the substantial increase in pension contributions.

It was agreed that the earmarked reserve of £9,000 for a by-election should be maintained. The clerk will check with Cheshire East Council to clarify whether CE cover the full cost of the council elections.

The air quality monitoring remains a source of concern. The costs for the town council to source an air quality monitor including the running costs make it cost prohibitive. It was noted that although CE claim that their current air quality monitoring systems fulfil the legal requirements there is real concern about the standard of monitoring and that it does not provide monitoring for all of the relevant roads and there is continued concern about the impact of future developments in the area.

It was confirmed that CE are responsible for maintaining Deva Park.

The chairman noted that there has been a significant increase in the precept over the last few years and a major contributory factor was the reduction in services previously funded by CE. The town council need to control the amount of the precept and be sensitive to the current economic environment. Members agreed that each committee will closely review the budget.

RESOLVED: That the report from the clerk on the town council's reserves and a preview of the town council's 2018-19 provisional budget is received (NC)

50. Receive and consider an update on advertising signage in flower beds in Poynton from the town clerk.

The clerk informed members that CE are responsible for advertising signage in their flower beds. The operations manager is following up on the poor condition of the London Road North flower beds with CE. CE have a pilot programme at present in about twenty areas across CE with sponsorship from signage in flower beds. The pilot does not include Poynton. The clerk has contacted CE on the issue of sharing income from sponsorship. From discussion members agreed that the clerk explore the grassing over of identified areas of the village and not pursue the issue of sponsorship with CE.

RESOLVED: That the update on advertising signage in flower beds in Poynton from the town clerk is received. That the clerk contact CE with regard to the grassing over of identified areas in the village (NC)

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

RESOLVED: That there were no communication messages (NC)

Meeting end time: 8.50pm