

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT THE
CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr C Gorst

Cllrs: M Beanland, L A Clarke, L Podmore and Mrs J Saunders

80. 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 chairman 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.

81. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

82. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Mrs Horsman-Johnson, G King, H Murray and G Smith

83. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

None.

84. Approve as an accurate record the minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22nd January 2018

It was noted that the Standing Orders do not allow for discussion on the minutes only on inaccuracies in the minutes. Members agreed that the Clerk will raise this issue to be addressed by the Standing Orders Working Group.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held 22nd January 2018 are approved as an accurate record (NC)

85. Review charges for Town Council services for 2018/19

The Deputy Clerk spoke on the written report for the annual review of the Civic Hall charges 2018/19. Members considered the report and the recommendations.

In response to a query about the required staffing to manage additional bookings, the Deputy Clerk confirmed that the increase in the number of Civic Hall supervisors from two to three was to enable staff to avoid working more than seven days a week and therefore overall costs should not increase unless there are more hirers.

On the issue of allotment costs, members agreed that rates need to be market tested to ensure comparison of charges. Also plot holders would need to be given notice should there be any resulting increases. It was agreed that the Clerk will complete a rate comparison exercise with a report to the committee. A decision on charges can be made up to September 2018 for the allotment year 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That the review charges for Town Council services for 2018/19 are received. That the recommendation that hire charges and cost of items for hire and sale should remain the same was approved. That the Clerk will complete a market test to research charges for allotments with a report to the committee to consider (NC)

86. Review the Town Council's insurance cover for 2018/19

Members received and reviewed the written report on the Town Council's insurance cover for 2018/19. The Deputy Clerk spoke on the report, which includes Employers' liability insurance. Members approved the recommendation as stated in the report.

RESOLVED: That the report on the Town Council's insurance cover for 2018/19 is received. That the recommendation as stated in the report is approved that the Clerk obtains quotations from a number of insurance providers to enable the comparison of premiums and cover. That delegated authority is granted to the Chair, Vice Chair and one other councillor from the committee to make a decision on the insurance cover for 2018/19 (NC)

87. Receive and consider a report on the Town Council's twinning partnerships from Cllr Mike Beanland

Cllr Beanland provided the following verbal report on the Town Council's twinning partnerships with Haybes, France:

A delegation of 18 people from Poynton are due to visit Haybes at the end of August 2018 to attend a First World War Memorial. There is an AGM of the Twinning Association due to be held on 28th February 2018 at the British Legion, a coffee morning on 16th March 2018 at Whitby Close from 10am to

noon and a Garden Party to be held on 9th March 2018. The members of the delegation will be funding their own trip to Haybes. The Mayor is also due to attend.

Members agreed that there should be a suitable commemorative gift for the visit to Haybes and any suggestions and ideas are welcomed.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report on the Town Council's twinning partnerships from Cllr Mike Beanland is received. That ideas for a suitable commemoration for Haybes are considered (NC)

88. Receive and consider a report from the Railway liaison task and finish group, including potential alterations to Poynton Station

The Clerk spoke on the report from the Railway liaison task and finish group, including potential alterations to the ticket office of Poynton Station received by members. The planned works by Arriva North are scheduled to take place during the third week of March 2018.

It was also noted that Historic England and Cheshire East Council's Historic Environments Record office have stated that the station is not old enough to merit heritage support and not of a particularly individual nature. The Clerk explained that it would be for the Town Council to decide to explore this further if desired and there is no cost to apply for a listing.

RESOLVED: That the report from the Railway liaison task and finish group, including potential alterations to Poynton Station is received. That the Town Council submit an application to Historic England for grade 2 listing on the national heritage list.

Members reviewed the email from a member of the public who suggests that it would be fair if Cheshire East Council (CE) allowed residents to use bus passes on local trains, especially because there is no Sunday or evening services to and from Poynton. The resident has also written to David Rutley, MP who does not support the request on the grounds of the statutory obligations of Cheshire East Council.

Members considered the following research on the issue: Stockport and nine other councils in Greater Manchester form 'Transport for Greater Manchester'. The transport is funded, including bus passes for the elderly, by a transport levy on the council tax of an average of £37 per person. CE serves a considerably smaller number of people and smaller area compared to Greater Manchester. It was noted that the "shires" do not provide the same service as the cities and towns.

The committee agreed that the Clerk together with the Chairman will respond to the resident based on the research presented at this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk liaise with the Chair to respond to the resident (NC)

89. Consider action to be taken regarding an outstanding debtor

RESOLVED: That the action taken regarding an outstanding debtor is received. That the Town Council will continue to monitor the situation. That the Clerk write to the debtor and the situation will be reviewed at the next committee meeting (NC)

90. Note the bank reconciliations for December 2017 and January 2018 as verified by the chairman

RESOLVED: That the bank reconciliations for December 2017 and January 2018 as verified by the chairman are approved (NC)

91. Receive and note the payment schedules for January 2018

Members received and reviewed the payment schedules for January 2018. The following points were noted:

Christmas tree; the Clerk is exploring options due to the current high costs of a Christmas tree.

Mono Alarms, £420; this is for the installation of intruder alarms in the civic chamber and main hall.

Ansa gritting; the Clerk queried the gritting bill for Waterloo Road and Anson Road. Although it was challenging to obtain the necessary details eventually a list of dates for the gritting was obtained from Ansa. The Clerk noted that the Operations Manager will retain the information in future too.

Business Rates; the Deputy Clerk noted that the business rates have not reduced yet because the update to the valuation list takes six to eight weeks effective from w/c 12th February 2018. The rebate is awaited.

RESOLVED: That the payment schedules for January 2018 are received (NC)

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

The following communication messages were agreed:

Listing of Poynton Station.

The new bus service timetable from 1st April 2018.

Media Release on the precept for 2018/19. The Chair, Clerk and Cllr Clarke will liaise on a suitable press release.

RESOLVED: That the communication messages arising from this meeting are approved (NC)

Meeting end time: 8.45pm