

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7PM ON MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr C Gorst

Cllrs. L A Clarke, J Saunders, A Smith and G Smith

Also attending under SO 53: Cllrs. Mrs S Horsman, H Murray

17. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs G Bartos, A Hall and M C G Sewart

18. Declarations of Interest

None

19. Minutes of the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Item 14 - The Chairman asked about the criteria for the Government's excessive council tax referenda raised at the last meeting. The Clerk said he was still trying to ascertain this.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012 are approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)**

20. Payment Schedules

The Clerk outlined some of the main items in the Payment Schedules for July and August 2012. The entry for Adam Wainwright for work off Coppice Road concerns material that he had supplied for filling in the pot holes on the section of the road by the scout hut, and leading to the allotments. The Clerk was disappointed to learn that this material has not been spread and it has been there some weeks. There was an agreement that the scouts would do this. The Clerk will follow up.

The invoice for Alan Davies, electrical contractor, was a composite invoice, comprising a number of different jobs.

Cllr Murray pointed out that because two PCSO's are leaving it will be necessary to make a deduction from the next invoice for any gaps in service provision.

**RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedules for July and August 2012 are received and signed by the Chairman (NC)**

#### 21. Town Council's 2013/14 budget

The Clerk has submitted a written brief on this subject. The Chairman explained the process that each spending committee should follow. He said that each Committee should first look at its own budget, with any changes/recommendations going to the F&GP Committee. The draft budget, and suggested precept is then commended to Full Council.

The Chairman suggested the timetable for this process be re-scheduled, with the Committee budget reports going to COPS on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and to FIED on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012. Recommendations from these Committees can then go to F&GP on 29<sup>th</sup> October and then to Full Council of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The Clerk explained that he was given a range of dates by the accountant for budget-setting and had opted for an early date. This will only be a draft budget and it proves very useful because the accountant can identify surpluses which can then be considered and a draft budget produced accordingly. The Chairman clarified with the Clerk that alterations and recommendations can be made to this draft budget, and asked that the revised timetable set out by the Chairman is followed.

Cllr Clarke said he cannot support the suggestion in paragraph (f) of the Clerk's report about the use of the Greenbelt Earmarked Reserve for the use of a neighbourhood plan for Woodford. Some government funding may be available for this. There could be a public enquiry into the Green Belt and he cannot support diverting any of this reserve to Woodford.

**RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report is received, subject to the revised timetable for recommendation/approval process as sought by the Chairman (NC)**

Concerning paragraph (c) It is expected that there will be some match funding for the position of Ageing Well Co-ordinator.

On paragraph (e), Alan Davies has agreed to prepare a condition report on the Town Council owned lamp posts for about £250. The Clerk explained that Alan Davies maintains that these, in contrast to the new lamp posts, do not in fact corrode because they are cast iron. He would take issue with Cheshire East's view that they no longer meet the electrical specification - he can in fact keep them maintained in good working order.

The Clerk said the Town Council can expect a claim from Cheshire East for the Town Centres Manager Diane Smith for services provided from April to

December 2012. A reasonable number of hours need to be agreed. Richard Holland, the new Operations and Events Manager, can be expected to take over most of these duties from the New Year.

The Clerk added that this year the Town Council will need to pay for the Christmas trees, lights and installation.

**RESOLVED: That the brief on the Town Council's 2013/2014 budget is received (NC)**

22. Briefing Paper for County Associations of Local Councils from NALC

The meeting discussed the Briefing Paper for County Associations of Local Councils from NALC on the subject of Localising Support for Council Tax and considered the Town Council's response to the consultation.

Cllr Murray suggested that the Town Council in particular support the proposal for special expenses. Members agreed that this was to ensure that special items and special expenses are as simple as possible. The Town Council require a simple calculation and transparency.

**RESOLVED: That the Briefing Paper for County Associations of Local Councils from NALC is received, and that the Town Council respond to the consultation in support of simplification and transparency (NC)**

The meeting concluded at 7.25pm