

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 25TH APRIL 2016 AT THE CIVIC
HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr C Gorst

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

Attending under SO56: Cllr Mrs S Horsman

66. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

67. Apologies for absence

Cllrs G King, Mrs T Lorde and G Smith.

68. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

Cllr Murray declared a personal interest in Item 8 (room hire) as a member of the committee of the Royal British Legion.

69. Previous meeting minutes

The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21st March 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

The following update on matters arising was received:

- Item 61 - the Clerk will approach CE to request a breakdown of the by-election costs.
- Item 62 - the service charge is included in the lease charge.
- Item 62 - the contracts for the two photocopiers were negotiated separately at different times.
- Item 63 - the Town Council have received the reply from the Secretary of State to David Rutley MP.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21st March 2016 are approved as an accurate record. That the Clerk will approach CE for a breakdown of by-election costs (NC)

70. Receive and consider a written commentary from the Clerk regarding the Financial Statements for 2015/16

Due to a delay in receiving the Financial Statements from the Town Council accountants it was proposed and agreed that this item is deferred to the next F&GP committee meeting.

It was noted that the delay has been the result of thoroughness by the Town Council finance administrator who has raised queries to be addressed.

RESOLVED: That this item is deferred to the next F&GP committee meeting (NC)

71. Consider approval of the payment to ChALC of the Town Council's affiliation fee for 2016/17 of £1,429.31

The Clerk provided a verbal brief of the benefits of ChALC membership. It was recommended that membership of ChALC would be worthwhile and supportive while the staffing changes at the Town Council are completed and embedded.

It was proposed that the payment to ChALC of the Town Council's affiliation fee for 2016/17 of £1,429.31 is approved with a note that the Town Council expect no increase for the next two to three years because this is a significant expense and one that the Town Council feel they must justify to the taxpayers and it is difficult to do this where the increase is ahead of the rate of inflation.

RESOLVED: That the approval of the payment to ChALC of the Town Council's affiliation fee for 2016/17 of £1,429.31 is approved. That the note regarding increasing costs is included with the payment (5 for, 1 abstention)

72. Consider approval of the repayment to Cheshire East Council for part of the grant funding for the minibuses of £15,000

It was confirmed that the Town Council are returning funds that were not used by the Town Council for the second minibus. It was proposed that the repayment to Cheshire East Council for part of the grant funding for the minibuses of £15,000 is approved.

RESOLVED: That the repayment to CE is approved (NC)

73. Receive and consider a written brief from the Clerk on proposed room hire charges from June 2016

The Clerk has completed a full review of room hire charges. The Clerk presented the written brief on the proposed room hire charges from June 2016.

The committee discussed at length the proposed room hire charges and agreed the following:

- The charges are simplified and implemented.
- To ensure consistently applied transparent costs.
- The over 60's and youth groups should not be discriminated on the grounds of age with all groups charged accordingly.
- Discounts will be applied for registered charities only.
- Other groups may appeal to the committee for a grant.
- Start and end times are clearly stated with the set up and clear up time stated.
- To address market sensitivity of charges.
- There is a six month pause on the rates for existing hirers.

In general, the long term aim is to increase the number of hirers at the Civic Hall.

It was proposed that there is approval in principle to the proposed changes with delegated powers to the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Cllr Mrs Saunders to approve the final version of the room hire charges.

RESOLVED: That the amendments are approved in principle with delegated powers to the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Cllr Mrs Saunders to approve the final version of the room hire charges (NC)

74. Review the Town Council's insurance cover for 2016/17

RESOLVED: That the Town Council's insurance cover for 2016/17 is approved (NC)

75. Note the bank reconciliations for December 2015, January 2016, February and March 2016 as verified by the Chairman

RESOLVED: That this item is deferred to the next F&GP committee meeting (NC)

76. Payment Schedule for March 2016

The committee received and reviewed the payment schedule for March 2016. It was noted that payments should be approved before payment is made.

RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedule for March 2016 is approved (NC)

Meeting End Time: 8.00pm