

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 8.00PM ON MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr P Oakes

Cllrs: M Beanland, D Belcher, L Clarke, S Lees, M Sewart and T Swatridge

Officers in attendance: Haf Barlow (Town Clerk), Kate McDowell (Deputy Clerk)

78. To note if 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 Deputy Clerk confirmed that the meeting is recorded for the purpose of minute taking and the recording is deleted when draft minutes are agreed. There were no other declarations of a recording at the meeting.

79. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public present.

80. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for my absence.

81. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

All Members were members of an organisation which hired out a room at the Civic Hall on a monthly basis. Without a dispensation, the committee would not be quorate and no decision could be made regarding fees and charges.

RESOLVED: Members are given a dispensation for item 11, fees and charges at the Civic Hall (NC)

82. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December 2024

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 2nd December 2024 are an accurate record and are approved (NC)

83. To receive and consider the action log for 2024-2025

The Clerk highlighted actions including the library agreement and the Cheshire Pension Fund

RESOLVED: That the action log for 2024-2025 is received (NC)

84. To receive the Income and Expenditure Q3 month 9 report.

The Clerk explained that the report now included explanations of all significant variances. Members asked questions to which the Clerk provided answers.

RESOLVED: That the Income and Expenditure Q3 month 9 report is received (NC)

85. To receive and consider the outturn and virements report

The Clerk highlighted areas that were likely to be over and underspends on budget lines at the end of the financial year. A list of possible virements was provided in the report. Members asked questions and the Clerk provided answers.

RESOLVED: That the outturn reserves forecast is noted (NC)

RESOLVED: That the virements are approved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee and recommended to the Town Council for approval (NC)

RESOLVED: it is recommended to the Town Council that any budget surplus should be allocated to an EMR to purchase a new Town Council vehicle (NR)

86. To receive the internal controls review carried out by Cllr Tim Swatridge for February 2025

RESOLVED: That the internal controls review carried out by Cllr Tim Swatridge for February 2025 is received (NC)

87. To receive a report from Cllr Tim Swatridge on the internal controls process.

Members discussed the need for a statistical audit.

RESOLVED: That the report from Cllr Tim Swatridge on the internal controls process is received. That Cllr Swatridge is thanked for his report (6 for 1 abs)

The Clerk advised members she was attending a Larger Council's meeting and suggested that she ask what internal controls they do. The Clerk suggested that if this was substantially different then it would be brought back to the next meeting.

88. To consider and agree the proposed fees and charges for the Town Council services including Civic Hall hire

Members discussed the proposal and asked questions to which the Deputy Clerk provided answers.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges for the Town Council services including Civic Hall hire are approved (NC)

89. To consider the quotations for Audio Visual equipment and agree which contractor should be appointed

Members considered the three quotes and agreed that the contract should be awarded to Agilico.

RESOLVED: That the Contract to provide AV equipment is awarded to Agilico (NC)

90. To receive a report on the disposal of the Town Council's mobility scooters

Members discussed the report.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council disposes of the mobility scooters. That the Clerk investigates the correct disposal of the mobility scooters (NC)

91. To receive and consider the draft Financial Regulations and to agree to recommend to Town Council for approval.

RESOLVED: That the draft Financial Regulations are received. That the draft financial regulations are recommended to the Town Council for approval (NC)

92 To receive the Freedom of Information (FOI) response from CEC in relation to consultations

Members discussed the response.

RESOLVED: That the FOI response from CEC in relation to consultations is received (NC)

93. To receive and consider the email from Cheshire East Council regarding election recharges for 2027

Members discussed the costs of elections and contested elections. A member suggested that a sum be put in the earmarked reserve to build the reserve.

RESOLVED: That the email from Cheshire East Council regarding election charges for 2027 is received. That when preparing the budget for 2026-2027, the Clerk includes a sum to be added to the Earmarked reserve for election expenses (NC)

94. To consider the Town Councils current investments and to review the investment policy for 2025-2026 and recommend to Town Council for approval

The Clerk highlighted investments within the Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the Investment Policy 2025-2026 with the numbering amendment is approved and commended to the Town Council for adoption. (NC)

95. To approve the FIED request to use up to £2,000 either from surplus funds at the end of the financial year or from Village Improvement fund to decorate the Town for summer events.

The Clerk advised members how the Town Council plan to decorate the town for summer events.

RESOLVED: That the FIED request to use up to £2000 either from surplus funds at the end of the financial year or from Village Improvement fund to decorate the Town for summer events is approved. (NC)

96. To authorise the use of CIL funds to for:

a. repairs to the Christmas tree electricity supply £ 192.30

RESOLVED: That the use of CIL funds for repairs to the Christmas Tree electricity supply £192.30 is approved (NC)

b. replace a fingerpost arm at a cost of £814.50

RESOLVED: That the use of CIL funds for replacing a fingerpost arm at a cost of £814.50 is approved. (NC)

c. purchase flood snakes £180

RESOLVED: That the use of CIL funds for the purchase of flood snakes £180 is approved. (NC)

d. purchase additional Christmas tree lights £234

RESOLVED: That the use of CIL funds to purchase additional Christmas tree lights £234 is approved. (NC)

97. To consider whether the Town Council should request a banking hub in the Town

Cllr Clarke advised members that the NatWest banks in Hazel Grove and Wilmslow are to close, leaving Poynton without local banking facilities.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk investigates a banking hub in Poynton (NC)

98. To receive and consider the payment lists from November, December 2024 and January 2025

Members considered the payment list and asked questions to which the Clerk and Deputy Clerk provided answers.

RESOLVED: That the payment lists from November for the current account for £69,023.49 and the deposit account of £50,000, for December £71,034.75/2024 and January 2025 for £49,756.05 are received. (NC)

99. To note the bank reconciliation for November, December 2024 and January 2025 as verified by the Chairman

RESOLVED: It was noted that the Chair had verified the bank reconciliation for November, December 2024 and January 2025 (NC)

100. To note the SO51 decision

a. To allow free room hire for the Alms Houses Trust

RESOLVED: That the SO51 decision to allow free room hire for the Alms Houses Trust is noted (NC)

b. To agree the precept media release

RESOLVED That the SO51 decision to agree the precept media release is noted (NC)

c. To agree to instruct LK to undertake soil sampling

RESOLVED: That the SO51 decision to agree to instruct LK to undertake soil sampling is noted (NC)

101. Communication Messages

Banking Hub

Meeting end time: 9.15pm

Signed.....

Dated.....