



FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Public Hall on Tuesday 20th December 2022 at 7.00pm.

614 PRESENT: Cllr Langridge (Chairman), Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Body, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Dawkins also the Town Clerk.

In the absence of the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr Langridge was duly elected Chairman for the meeting.

615 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Biggs, Cllr Drinnan, Cllr Goode, Cllr Monks and Cllr Turner

616 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 8th November 2022 having been circulated were confirmed a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

617 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATION

The Town Clerk confirmed all councillors present had previously been granted a dispensation to discuss matters pertaining to the parish precept.

618 PAYMENTS & RECIEPTS

Members were tabled with the details of payments for the month of December 2022 including cheque numbers 105705 to 105716, direct debits and bank payments totalling £23,541.50 including cheque number 100025 from the CB3 account together with receipts received in the sum of £1,410.72, a copy of which are attached. Members **RESOLVED** adoption and payment as presented.

619 PROJECTED BUDGET REVIEW & DRAFT BUDGET FRAMEWORK 2023/24

(a) Projected budget position at 31st March 2023

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the projected budget position at 31st March 2023 that indicated a deficit in the region of £53,990. **NOTED.**

(b) Budget Framework for 2023/24

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the proposed draft budget framework for 2023/24 together with a copy of the Town Clerk's budget report, a copy of which is attached.

The Chairman took members through the budget framework, no significant items were raised for discussion with the exception of:

- The cost of and other issues related to the Christmas Lights Festival, it was **AGREED** to arrange a meeting to give all councillors the opportunity to voice their opinion on the future of this event bearing in mind the minimal input from the business and community. The Town Clerk was asked to provide detailed breakdown of costs associated with the 2022 event for the meeting.
- The necessity to revisit the continued use of the Cowie Room for storage purposes
- The necessity to review costs associated with IT provision

Following due consideration of the budget framework and points raised in the Town Clerk's report members **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** Council levy a precept of £237,537 an additional £17,595 on last year equating to an 8% increase.

620 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

621 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting set for Tuesday 28th February 2023.

622 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to meeting) ACT 1960

Members **RESOLVED** that public and press be now excluded from the meeting whilst discussion takes place on the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted in respect of consideration of staffing issues.

(a) Postholder 301

Members had previously been circulated with the Town Clerk's confidential report following the resignation of postholder 301, the content of which was **NOTED**.

Following consideration of the content within the report the Town Clerk was instructed to further explore a number of suggestions put forward with regard to postholder 301 and other staffing issues with a view to a further report for consideration at a further meeting, a date to be arranged.

623 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 9.20pm.

Chairman
28th February 2023

