



**Whittlesey Town Council
Finance & Policy Committee**

**Minutes of the Finance & Policy held on Monday 20th March 2017 at 6.00pm at
Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey.**

Present: Cllr Dorling, Wicks, Butcher, Miscandlon, Mason, Mrs Jolley

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Sue Piergianni

Recording: DS250107.DS2

FP21/17 - To receive apologies from absent Members.

Cllr Bristow (illness)

FP22/17.- Declaration of Members Pecuniary Interests, on items to be discussed later in the agenda and the Council to decide which items are to be discussed as confidential under agenda item number FP31/17

- New Offices & Working Group Update

FP23/17 – Public Forum.

There were no members of the public present.

FP24/17 - To confirm and sign the Minutes from the last meeting of the Finance & Policy on 20th February 2017

Ratified: The minutes were approved.

FP25/17 – Presentation from Batul Dungarwalla – Chief Executive Officer – Citizens Advice Rural Cambs (this item was requested from F & P on 20th February 2017)

Mrs Dungarwalla thanked members for inviting her to speak, members were advised that the funding from Fenland District Council has been cut by 8K per year and will continue to be reduced a further by a further 8K for the next consecutive three years. They offer outreach services to the market towns of Whittlesey, Chatteris, March and Wisbech, the these parish councils have been approached to see if they would assist in funding the one post that services all these areas, the post costs £15,500 per year, it covers the member of staff, travel expenses, volunteer costs and all the appropriate accreditation, the CAB used to just have volunteers, however due to the complexity of the issues, they now need someone who is qualified to deal with these give advice to the volunteers who are not qualified to give the answers. They dealt with 226 new clients covering Whittlesey and the villages, as well as some from March and Wisbech and other local villages, plus approximately 500 that they have been seen before. They are looking for a contribution of £5,500 from all four of the market towns and are waiting for a response.

Cllr Butcher asked if the town council were in a position in the future to offer office space in lieu of a donation, would that be acceptable to retain the services in Whittlesey, Mrs Dungarwalla advised they may be able to run a service.

Mrs Dungarwalla advised members 24 organisations within Fenland for funding, they have had two successes.

Cllr Dorling asked if we offered £1000.00 what would we received, the answer being one day a month service as the volunteer would need to be trained, supervision of the volunteer as they cannot just give advice they need it verified by the paid member of staff. If WTC did not offer a donation, Mrs Dungarwalla feels it would affect venerable people who can get to the library.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Dungarwalla for her presentation.

FP26/17 Agenda Items for Discussion

- Neighbourhood Plan – the NHP comprises three elements, the full survey, SHS have an addendum and the four primary schools have their own addendum. A tracked delivery survey has been delivered to approximately 7500 properties. There are three information centres being held over the next 7 days. The next stage is to see if we can claim the funds back from central government. The next stage will be to start analysing the returning information.
- 12 Month Gas and Electric (end date Oct 2017) – The Clerk to look at go compare and see what prices are available.
- CCVS Membership – The cost is £60.00 per year. (copy the leaflet and move to Full Council agenda).

FP27/17. Financials.

- Bank Reconciliation – members agreed the balanced bank reconciliation.
- Year to date Figures – The Chairman advised members that
- Payment List for approval – These were presented to members.
- Uncashed Payments - this was presented to members
- Non Domestic Rates – as the rateable value is now less than £12,500, we may be able to apply for an exemption, the Clerk to obtain the paperwork and submit to see if we qualify.

FP28/17 - Donation Requests.

Donations are dealt with at the following meetings February, April, July & November.

- Citizens Advice Bureau (deferred from February) - The Clerk to ascertain what March and Wisbech are going to donate, and put it as an agenda item on the April Full Council agenda and the next F & P Meeting.

FP29/17 – Information

There was no information for discussion.

FP30/17 – Date of Next Meeting – Monday 24th April 2017

FP31/17. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press.

Resolved that in respect of the following item of business, the public, including the press, will be excluded from the meeting, because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, publication of which would be prejudicial to the public interest.

- Cllr Miscandlon advised members that the Heads of Terms have been sent to the vendor and the purchase of the property is moving forward.
- Cllr Dorling advised the revised announcement will be posted on the website under 'Council Communications.

Meeting Close

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Cllr Eamonn Dorling
Chairman
Finance & Policy Committee