

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL – Finance & Policy Committee

Minutes of the F & P committee held on Monday 17th January 2022 at 6.30pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY

Present: Cllr Boden, Dorling, Wicks, Mrs Mayor, Miscandlon

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

FP01/2022 - To receive apologies from absent Members.

Cllr Mockett (personal), Cllrs Davies & Nawaz were not present, and no apologies were received.

FP02/2022 -To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda items.

Cllr Miscandlon as WTC representative on the Rural CAB.

Cllr Mrs Mayor as Chairman of Whittlesey in Bloom

FP03/2022 – Public Forum – 15 minutes

1 member of the public present,

Cllr Roy Gerstner – Advised members of the support the CAB give residents and hoped WTC would continue to support them.

FP04/202 - To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee on Monday 13th December 2021

Ratified; The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record, with one amendment, Cllr Mrs Mayor was not present and gave apologies however these were not recorded.

FP05/2022 - Financials.

1. Bank Reconciliation to 31st December 2021 – Members received the balanced bank reconciliation.
2. Year to date Figures – Members received the year-to-date figures
3. Payment List for approval – Vouchers 220 – 248 to the value of £19302.78 were proposed by Cllr Miscandlon, seconded Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.

Cllr Miscandlon thanked the Clerk for her hard work and the continued accuracy of all of the councils' records.

FP06/2022 – Agenda Items for Discussion

1. MVAS Brackets – Drybread Road and Bassenhally (2 locations on each road), the Clerk to email Cllr Munns and ask if he had any suggested locations.
2. Budget 2022/2023 – Suggested adjustments
 - a. Increase in precept from £171,015 to £172,000
 - b. Reduction in NHP from 15k to 10k
 - c. Reduction from 10.5k to 3.5k -Donations & Grants
 - d. Christmas lights increase from 5k to 7.5k
 - e. Whittlesey in bloom increase from 500 to 1000
 - f. New code for the planting of the trees 'Jubilee Wood' new figure of £5,000

The Revised budget with a precept of 172,000 was proposed by Cllr Boden, seconded by Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.



Cllr Boden expressed concern about the capital cost of the Heritage centre, e.g., the gap between the funding we have and the funding we need to achieve. Members of the property working group are all working on grant applications to fill this shortfall. Cllr Mason has advised Cllr Boden that there will be a 6-month delay to this project so it will open in spring 2023.

Cllr Dorling expressed concern regarding the future costs of the electricity and gas due to the increase in tariff, however Cllr Boden suggested that the reduced consumption due to the repairs to the boiler would help with the costs. The Clerk will investigate when our contract is due to end. Cllr Boden suggested if we reduced our consumption by 50% and the tariff increased by 100% these two will equal out.

The clerk advised members that the initial quote for the automated glass screens in her office was astronomical and she has asked for a quote with just sliding screens that lock. Members suggested the Clerk obtain the new cost and providing it falls under the delegated powers, replace them as soon as practicable

3. Policies & Risk Assessments – The following revised policies and risk assessments were submitted for discussion.
 - a. Evacuation Procedure – The Clerk to make the suggested amendments
 - b. Equality and Diversity Policy – The Clerk to make the suggested amendments
 - c. Smoking and Vaping Policy – The Clerk to make the suggested amendments and also add in the comments from Cllr Dorling
 - d. The General Power of Competence Briefing & Policy Document – Approved
 - e. Risk Assessment Revision – Office Reception – Approved
 - f. Risk Assessment Revision– Council Chamber - Approved
 - g. Risk Assessment Revision– Covid. – Approved

Items a, b & c – The Clerk to make amendments and take back to F & P in February.
Items d,e,f, & g – To go before Full Council on Thursday 20th January 2022 for ratification.

FP07/2022 - Donation Requests.

1. Rural CAB - £6800.00 proposed Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Miscandlon with a unanimous vote in favour.
2. Whittlesey in Bloom £500.00, proposed Cllr Boden, seconded Cllr Miscandlon 1 abstention all other councillors vote in favour.

FP08/2022– Date of Next Meeting – Monday 21st February 2022

Meeting Closed: 20:25



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Cllr Chris Boden
Chairman
Finance & Policy Committee

