

## WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL - Finance & Policy Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 6.00pm at Peel House, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY.

**Present:** Cllr Boden, Arman, Sennitt-Clough, Mockett, Wicks, Dickinson, Dorling (Cllr Arman as Vice Chairman commenced the meeting as Cllr Boden was still enroute from FDC),

**Officer in Attendance** Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

**Recording:** The recording is made as an aide memoir for the Clerk.

#### **FP43/2023. To receive apologies from absent Members.**

Cllr Nawaz (personal)

#### **FP44/2023. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda items discussed later in the agenda.**

There were no declarations.

#### **FP45/2023 - Public Forum – 15 minutes**

One member of the public was present.

#### **FP46/2023 - To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Cllr Mockett proposed the minutes be approved and signed, seconded by Cllr Sennitt-Clough with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **FP47/2023 – Financials.**

1. Bank Reconciliations to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Members received the balanced reconciliation.
2. Year to date Figures – The figures were received.
3. Payment List for approval – Vouchers 60 – 79 to the value of £ 9,665.25, proposed by Cllr Mockett, seconded Cllr Dorling with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **FP48/2023 - Agenda Items for Discussion**

1. Review of Standing Orders – Members discussed reviewing the standing orders, it was agreed to send them to all Cllrs requesting any comments back by the end of August, the Clerk will then tabulate these for discussion at F & P in September. The Clerk will advise Cllrs that some items are mandatory and cannot be changed. The document will be sent out as PDF.

18:15 Cllr Boden Joined the meeting and took the Chair.

2. Standing Orders – ED 2, J, iii (What is the Virtue of a Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council) – Cllr Boden advised he recommended the change several years ago to separate the political leadership from the ceremonial to give any councillor the opportunity to be the civic head. He had noted this would be less stressful than having to carry out both roles.
3. Community Projects Committee – Cllr Wicks suggested the CP committee are very prescriptive and could they be more focused. Cllr Mockett has set a precedent by holding events in the village and sourcing external funding. He additionally suggested lights along the cycleway, would have been something the CP committee could have worked on which would benefit the

whole community, perhaps the remit should be changed for this committee. A further example being, allowing all Cllrs to have the choice to carry out the allotment inspections. Cllr Mockett suggested this item be on the next CP meeting.

4. Donation Process – Members discussed WTC donation process and suggest it should be changed. the Chair has discussed with the Clerk who has looked at other councils' policy as comparison and agreed WTC is very robust but needs amendments. The Clerk to send to all councillors for their comments, requesting responses by end of August for discussion at F & P in September. This was proposed by Cllr Mockett, seconded Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.
5. Mission Statement – Deferred from June meeting. Cllr Arman suggested 'Alone we can do so little and together we can do so much', Cllr Dorling commented this was not really a mission statement, but more of a quote. Members discussed the proposal from Cllr Arman and suggested it be reviewed annually but agreed to commence using the new version. Proposed Cllr Mockett, seconded Cllr Sennitt-Clough with a majority vote in favour.
6. Office Gas – CB / The Clerk presented the figures for a 1/2/3-year supply with different providers, members discussed the difference in cost, there was only £8.00 between the one and two year and therefore requested the Clerk take the one year as the prices of gas are falling and the council did not want to be tied into a long contract. The clerk will also check if a better deal is achievable as the electric is also with the same provider. The new rates and supplier (British Gas Lite) were proposed by Cllr Mockett, seconded Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **FP49/2023 – Information**

There was no additional information.

#### **FP50/2023 - Donation Requests.**

Whittlesey Extravaganza – This item had been deferred from the June meeting awaiting additional information, which members had now received, however on further view of the application, the organisation had not put in the sum they were applying for. The request was discussed, and members agreed the organisation was self sufficient and therefore no offer of a donation would be made. This was proposed by Cllr Mockett, seconded Cllr Sennitt-Clough with a unanimous vote in favour.

The Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust – Members discussed the donation and agreed they were unable to offer a donation, this was proposed by Cllr Wicks, seconded Cllr Mockett with a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **FP51/2023– Date of Next Meeting – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**Closed: 19.14**

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Cllr Boden  
Chairman  
F & P Committee