

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL OFFICES 44 OLD STREET ON WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY 2019 AT 7.30PM

Present: Committee Chairman Cllr H. Young
 Cllrs N. Barton, B. Cherokoff, A. Everitt, C. Francis-Pester, A. Goodliffe, G. Hill, T. Morgan, K. O'Brien, D. Shopland, J. West, R. Westwood.
 Ms Paula Heath Town Clerk,

FGP 19/893 RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

FGP 19/894 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda at this point.

FGP 19/895 ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE FOR 2019/20

Cllr C. Francis-Pester was proposed and seconded
 Cllr T. Morgan was proposed and seconded
 Cllr T. Morgan was elected as the Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Policy Committee for 2019/2020 by 6 votes to 4

FGP 19/896 RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Finance & General Policy Committee meeting held on 20th March 2019 and ratified by Council on 10th April 2019 were accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that in respect of minute no 19/882 the letter to the Home Secretary should be discussed with PCC Sue Mountstevens

FGP19/897 RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ASM COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Finance & General Policy Committee meeting held on 15th May 2019 during the ASM, were accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

FGP 19/898 RECEIVE THE FGP COMMITTEE BUDGET/ACTUAL SPREADSHEET 2018/19

Members noted the accounts spreadsheets that had been circulated with the agenda. In response to questions the Town Clerk as RFO confirmed there were no outstanding invoices from NSC, and that the internal Allotment budget would be set by the Allotment Committee.

FGP 19/899 RECEIVE AND AGREE DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR-END 31ST MARCH 2019.

A copy of the draft accounts had been circulated with the agenda. In response to questions the Town Clerk as RFO explained that the Council had received additional income in 2018/2019 to that budgeted, also many items came in under budget, therefore were able to transfer more funds into reserves. It was explained that at the precept meeting members are given an overview of the Councils finances including amounts held in reserves, and those that are ring fenced.

DRAFT MINUTES TO BE RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL

FGP 19/890 AGREE TIMETABLE AND CRITERIA FOR SMALL GRANTS

Members agreed the timetable for the small grants, applications will go live on 30th May with a deadline of noon on the 31st July. The allocation will be at the 11th September meeting, following the agreed procedure.

Members discussed the criteria in detail. It was felt that a monitor and evaluation process should be requested for those who have been awarded grants, but that this may not be possible for all the smaller organisations in any formal way as they are mainly volunteer run. It was agreed that the criteria and form should include the undertaking by grantees awarded over £500, to provide a 6-month report.

Proposed by Cllr Shopland, and seconded, that the Grant Aid Criteria is not altered for the current year, and that the criteria to be reviewed prior to next year's grants consideration. Refused via the following amendments.

Criteria no 3 concern was expressed at the interpretation of this criteria which could be seen to disenfranchise those dealing with a limited community, or differing age groups.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Everitt, and seconded that criteria no 3 is amended to read "Preference shall be given to providing support for widest possible services to the community and differing age groups"

AGREED

Criteria no 4. Members queried the terminology used in the criteria feeling that it did not promote the inclusivity agenda.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Everitt, and seconded, that criteria no 4 is amended to read "Where appropriate, the organisation should make concessionary subscriptions and fees".

AGREED

FGP 19/891 AGREE INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL.

A copy of the proposed investment strategy was circulated with the agenda. Proposed by Cllr Hill and, seconded, that the investment strategy as circulated is accepted and **AGREED**

FGP 19/892 NOMINATE MEMBERS FOR THE FOLLOWING SUB-COMMITTEE:-

IT Working Group

Proposed and **AGREED** the IT working Group will be Cllr Cherokoff, Cllr Francis-Pester, Cllr Barton and Cllr Young. The Working Group were asked to look at a web site upgrade.

FGP 19/893 RECEIVE UPDATE ON LAND TO REAR OF BROOKFIELD WALK [FGP 19/870] & [FC 19/1019].

The Town Clerk informed members that the recent work on the site was for archaeological surveying. It is understood NSC are still carrying out evaluation and feasibility studies. In response to a question the Town Clerk confirmed that according to an email received from NSC prior to the May elections purdah, NSC were looking for a site for a school, this had also been the information given to residents when they contacted NSC.

Members asked for assurances from NSC that the Town Council and residents would be kept informed.

FGP 19/894 RECEIVE RESPONSE FROM NSC RE THE RENTAL OF SALTHOUSE FIELDS [FC 19/880].

There had been no response from NSC in respect of the rental fees of Salthouse Fields. It was agreed to write to the executive member about the rental fees, and to coordinate the marketing and letting of concessions on the seafront to continue the enhancement of the area.

FGP 19/895 DISCUSS QUESTIONS FOR MEETING WITH PCC SUE MOUNTSTEVENS.

Members discussed at length the proposed meeting with PCC Sue Mountstevens following the visit by Chief Inspector Leanne Pook, and concerns raised in Council. The following questions would be asked.

- 1) Please explain the rationale behind the recent closing of the police desk at Castlewood without any prior notification or consultation. The closure leaves Clevedon without any direct contact point with the police, all initial reports and contacts being via telephone or internet. Has any consideration been made to a police desk, albeit part time, in the Town Centre?
- 2) Please explain the rostering and rotas for Clevedon, there is very little evidence of police officers being on duty, and present, during the evening and weekends, especially around areas of known anti-social behaviour.
- 3) Please explain the custody arrangements available for officers in Clevedon and how this impact on the availability of officers, whilst transferring to custody suits.
- 4) Please explain what the current police priorities are in respect of responding to incidents; how are these set locally/nationally; how are these evaluated; what are Avon & Somerset response times within the police district, and against other police forces.
- 5) Please explain Avon & Somerset Police responses to burglaries, and aggravated street crime in particular knife attacks.
- 6) Please explain what engagement there has been with business and retailers in respect of a Clevedon Shop Watch, how effective has this been in other Avon & Somerset areas and what lessons have been learnt.
- 7) Please explain how the reduction in budgets has affected Avon & Somerset Police in broad terms, what difficulties and concerns this raises, and how the difficult decisions are made.
- 8) Is there anything Clevedon Town Council can do to assist the police?

FGP 19/896 AGREE A MEMBER TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE ROLE OF NON-VOTING PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON AVON PENSION BOARD – EMAIL 13.05.2019

No members were willing to be nominated as a Town & Parish Representative.

FGP 19/897 RECEIVE UPDATE ON CLEANER HIGH STREET FUND FGP 19/889

The Town Clerk updated members on the expenditure arising out of the grant received from NSC in respect of the Cleaner High Street Initiative. As per minute no. FGP 19/889 the funding has been split between Clevedon Gardeners and Clevedon Pride concentrating on Queen Square and Hill Road.

FGP 19/898 RECEIVE NOTIFICATION AND DISCUSS CIL FUNDING RECEIVED FOR 2018/19 YEAR.

Members were informed that the Council had received £1584 in CIL funding for 2018/19 this came from planning application 18/P/2855. A copy of NSC information sheet on CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) had been circulated with the agenda, the document explained the criteria for spend and the reporting requirements. Members noted the 5-year deadline and agreed to defer consideration pending the adoption of the neighbourhood plan, when the Council would asses an appropriate project. In response to a question it was explained that any s106 monies held by NSC were in areas beyond the power or duty of the Town Council to provide.

FGP 19/899 CHAIRMAN ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

With the agreement of the Chairman and Committee the following items were raised for future action.

19/899.1Parish & Town Council Governance

Cllr Westwood raised the need of a combined parish and town council governance mechanism to enable councils to share information, both on what is happening within their parish and also on a district wide level. This would be placed on the next Committee agenda for Cllr Westwood to report.

19/899.2Regalia

Cllr Shopland passed around the Chairman’s Medal that is in need of repair to the enamel on the front, he also explained that the engraving on the rear was becoming faint. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would obtain costs to repair the medal, and redo the engraving, also to get the price of commissioning a new medal, for the next Committee meeting.

19/899.3Funding Opportunity

Cllr Everitt brought the members attention to a fund launched by Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sports for old buildings to bring them back into use.

FGP 19/900 DETERMINE PART I AND PART II ITEMS.

There were no Part 1 items.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

CHAIRMANDATE