

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of a virtual meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee, held on Monday the 21st September 2020.

PRESENT: The Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs. N. Davies, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ms. M. Buckley, Councillor Rev. B. Harvey (in the Chair).

Councillors: Mrs. J. Cunningham, P. Cunningham, M. Evans, Ms R. Johnson, Mrs. E. Jones, S.K. License, Mrs. M. Perfect, Mrs. V. Perfect, I.B. Roberts.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors: D.L. Cox, J.P., J. Johnson, Mrs. L. Jones, J.P., M.W. Moore, Miss. S. Moore.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. L. Wood, Town Clerk and Mrs. S.C. Williams, P.A. to the Clerk.

222. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Rev. B. Harvey declared an interest in the Accounts item, voucher number 85.

223. CCTV CAMERAS

Mr. Doug Dowling, Flintshire County Council was in attendance and provided an update on the CCTV cameras in the Town. Mr. Dowling confirmed Flint has 6 new cameras and a 7th will be installed within two weeks and confirmed that the County Council are currently preparing a business case to have all County cameras replaced.

Councillor Rev. B. Harvey said the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) expired 2014 and asked if a new SLA will be produced. Mr. Dowling said he will enquire about this and report back to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the above is noted and the Council will await Mr. D. Dowling's response regarding the SLA.

224. NORTHOP ROAD CEMETERY GROUP

Mr. P. Metcalfe, Chairman of the Northop Road Cemetery Group, who are a local registered charity was in attendance and gave an overview of the work that the group have carried out. Mr. Metcalfe said the group had recently been granted a Community Award of £2,000 and that Flint High School have shown a keen interest in creating a memorial garden and website for researchers and visitors.

Mr. Metcalfe explained he hoped the Council could help with a project to move approx. 100 headstones that are currently inaccessible. The group want visitors to be able to see the gravestones and to give the deceased the respect they deserve.

Councillor Rev. B. Harvey asked if the group had costings for this work and asked had they spent any of the Airbus grant. Mr. Metcalfe had yet to obtain a quote for works and had only spent £150 to date.

Councillor P. Cunningham said the work the group do is admirable, but these works are not in the remit of the Town Council and suggested the group contact Flintshire County Council.

Councillor I. B. Roberts agreed the group should contact Mr. S. O. Jones, Flintshire Chief Officer and should also enquire if there are other grants available to the group.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

225. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 20th July, 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

226. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment on the attached schedule be approved for payment.

227. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The meeting considered the Budget Monitoring report and Bank reconciliation statement, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. See Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the financial information be noted and approved.

228. MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR ALLOWNCE

The Town Clerk asked the Council to consider a policy for the Mayor & Deputy Mayor allowance.

Councillor I. B. Roberts suggested the Town Clerk contacts HMRC for advice. Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk will contact HMRC and report back to the next meeting.

229. CIVIC REGALIA

The Town Clerk shared a quotation for the repair works required on the Mace.

Councillors agreed the repairs should be carried out and accepted the quotation from Fattorini's.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk will contact Fattorini's to arrange for the necessary repairs.

230. DONATIONS – WELSH BORDER COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The Council considered a financial donation request from Welsh Border Community Transport and agreed to donate £100.

RESOLVED: That a £100 donation will be made to the Welsh Border Community Transport.

231. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: That the Public and Press be excluded from the following matter.

232. STAFFING MATTERS

The Council considered a report by the Town Clerk.

Councillors agreed the staff could return to work and must adhere to all the government advice. In order to keep safe the Council agreed that the town hall toilets will no longer be available for public use and the doors from reception into the main community room will be locked at all times.

The Council agreed to the change of working days for the PA to the Tow Clerk.

The Town Clerk informed the Council that the Town Caretaker, Mr. B. Tyson has given his resignation and will leave the Council on 30th September 2020. Councillors shared their appreciation and thanks for all the hard work Mr. Tyson did over his 18 years of service for the Town Council.

The Councillors discussed replacing the Town Caretaker and agreed that this appointment should be deferred and reviewed in the new year when hopefully covid restrictions have relaxed. The Town Clerk informed the Council that the Town Council van was beyond repair due to its age and therefore proposed the van was disposed off, the Council agreed.

RESOLVED: That the staff will return to the Town Hall offices week commencing 28th September, that the PA will work the revised days and the Town Clerk will arrange the disposal of the van.

233. 2020-21 NATIONAL PAY AGREEMENT

The Town Clerk reported that information has been received from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) where it has been agreed the new pay scales for 2020-2021 to be implemented from 1 April 2020. The increase is 2.75%.

RESOLVED: That the above was noted and approved with effect from 1st April 2020.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 21st September, 2020
..... Vice Chair	