

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of a virtual meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee, held on Monday the 17th January, 2022.

PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor Ms. M. Buckley and Rev. B. Harvey (in the Chair).

Councillors: P. Cunningham, J. Johnson, Mrs. E Jones, S.K. License, Mrs. M. Perfect and Mrs. V. Perfect.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors: D. L. Cox, J. P., Mrs. J. Cunningham, Mrs. N. Davies, J.P., M. Evans, Ms R. Johnson, Mrs. L. Jones, J.P., M.W. Moore, Miss. S. Moore and I. B. Roberts.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. L. Wood, Town Clerk and Mrs. S. C. Williams, PA.

131. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations.

132. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15th November, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

133. EXTENSION OF COUNCILLORS ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported she had received an email from both Councillor M. Moore and Councillor Miss. S. Moore to ask for an extension of absence due to work commitments.

Councillor P. Cunningham proposed that Council should accept Councillor M. Moore and Councillor Miss. S. Moore request for absence and also the Council should grant this for both Councillor D. L. Cox, J.P. and Councillor Mrs. R. Johnson.

Council agreed due to the timings and proximity to the May elections.

RESOLVED: That an extension of absence be granted to Councillors D. L. Cox, J.P., Mrs. R. Johnson, M. Moore and Miss. S. Moore.

134. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

135. 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.

136. STAFFING MATTERS

Councillor Mrs. M. Perfect reported that some months ago after Council approval a sub committee of Councillors met on several occasions to discuss proposals for additional staffing to meet the Council's growing needs and the budget implications. It was agreed to propose that the Council now re employs a Town Caretaker, to undertake duties at the Town Hall and within the Town on a part time basis, 12 hours per week and that the Town Clerk's hours are increased by 10 hours per work to cope with the increasing workload.

The Town Clerk reported that budget report 2022/23 included the budget for the Town Clerk's increased hours, however as decided in consultation with the sub committee, if the Council agree to appoint a Town Caretaker, this would be funded in 2022/23 by using monies from the reserves, therefore would need to be included in future budget schedules.

Council agreed to the above proposals and gave the sub committee powers to act regarding advertisement and appointment.

Councillor P. Cunningham wished it to be noted that his thanks go to the Flintshire Litter Pickers for their sterling work in the Town and hopes the new Town Caretaker can also help to keep our Town clean and tidy.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk's hours are increased by 10 hours per week commencing 1st April, 2022 and that a the Town Caretaker post is advertised and appointed by 1st April, 2022.

137. PRECEPT 2022/23

The Council considered the report, which was prepared in consultation with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader, Chair of Finance and Policy and Chair of Town Hall Management. See Appendix A.

The report indicated the cost of the Band D property would be £48.47, which is the same as 2021/22, if the proposals, as submitted, were approved.

Following the discussions regarding staffing matters, it was agreed that the budget schedule was amended to show the increased staffing costs relating to the Town Caretaker post and that monies have been moved from the reserves to ensure no increase in the precept.

RESOLVED: That a precept of £243,350.00 be made on Flintshire County Council for 2022/23, which equated to a Band D charge of £48.47, which is the same as 2021/22 and the attached report was agreed and approved.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 17 th January, 2022
..... Chairman	