

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL - Finance & Policy Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th May 2024 at 6.00pm at Peel House,
8 Queen Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AY

Present: Cllr Boden, Wicks, Dorling, Dickinson, Nawaz, Sennitt-Clough, Mockett, Arman (6.30)

Officer in Attendance: Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

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

FP39/2024. To receive apologies from absent Members.

There were no apologies.

FP40/2024. 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

FP41/2024 - Public Forum – 15 minutes

There were no members of the public present.

FP42/2024 - To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Finance & Policy Committee on Monday Monday 15th April 20024

Ratified: The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record, proposed Cllr Mockett, seconded Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.

FP43/2024 – Financials.

1. Bank Reconciliations to 30th April 2024 – members received the balanced bank reconciliation
2. Year to date Figures. Members received the year to date figures, the Chair asked the Clerk to explain the new reserves report. The Clerk advised this report will be given out each month.
3. Payment List for approval – Vouchers 1 – 12 to the value of £4277.50 proposed
4. Draft AGAR information – The Chair advised members of the amount of work involved in this process due to WTC now being an intermediate review. He thanked the Clerk for her detailed work.
5. Internal Auditor report – The Chair advised the report showed no major issues, and only a couple of minor items that the Clerk would address

FP44/2024 - Agenda Items for Discussion

1. Gas Contract – Members discussed the contract, Cllr Mockett proposed a 2 year term with British Gas Lite, seconded by Cllr Arman with a unanimous vote in favour.
2. Golden Age Fair – Room Hire cost – Cllr Boden proposed we approve the cost of £112.50 for the Eastrea Centre
3. Read to Succeed – Cllr Boden advised this is the request from Steven Barclay to ensure all school children in the area have access to a reading book. £500.00 was proposed by Cllr Wicks, seconded Cllr Sennitt-Clough with a unanimous vote in favour.
4. Whittlesey Festival Correspondence – Cllr Boden advised his recollection is the relationship fell apart when the Festival committee when the steering committee were unwilling to accept the WTC nominee onto their steering committee. Cllr Sennitt-Clough offered help and facilitated a meeting with the Arts Council England. Cllr Wicks advised that Coates fete has managed to continue without additional funding, and suggested that the Whittlesey Festival should carry out some long term planning. Cllr Boden advised he has been in contact with the Vice Chairman of the Festival committee and a meeting will be arranged with them to try and assist further.

5. Residential flats – Cllr Boden – The five year contract is due to end in September. WTC need to decide what they are going to do and how they are going to do it!. FDC are not particularly interested in taking the flats over, WTC could deal with them directly but this would mean an excessive amount of work for the Clerk, WTC could sell them or alternatively they could engage a letting agent. Members discussed at length and agreed a letting agend was the best way forward. The Clerk was asked to carry out the following
 - a. Contact Letting agenda to ascertain the correct market rental for each flat
 - b. Obtain fees for a comprehensive service.
 - c. Obtain the fees for the service
 - d. Send all information to members.
6. Funding for religious groups – Cllr Mockett proposed we do not give funding to any religious groups or places of worship. Seconded by Cllr Arman and caried my majority.
7. Temporary Key Holder Policy – Cllr Boden asked members if they were happy with the new policy, members asked if the Clerk could change some of paragraphs.
8. New Model Financial Regulations –Cllr Boden suggested to members that he and the Clerk start to look at these
9. Contract cleaning hours – Cllr Boden passed this item to the Clerk. As the courtyard is the entrance to the chamber this area needs to be kept clean along with the weeding at the front of Peel House and the courtyard, the Clerk asked if she could request the cleaner do 2 – 3 additional hours, a large broom and a leaf vacuum. Proposed Cllr Wicks, seconded Cllr Boden with a unanimous vote in favour.

FP45/2024 – Information

FP46/2024 - Donation Requests

1. Summer Reading Challenge - £500.00 Proposed Cllr Dorling, seconded Cllr Wicks with a unanimous vote in favour.

FP47/2024 - Date of Next Meeting To be advised.

Meeting Closed 19.18

CP Boden

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Cllr Boden
Chairman
Finance & Planning Committee