

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2024 IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Gilbert (Chair) , Eichner, la Djoï, Hugo, Lewin, Taylor-Smith & Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Jaffay

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk & Asst Clerk. District Cllr Patterson-Vanegas, Cllr. Summer (as a Member of public) and 3 members of public

Cllr. Gilbert said how sorry he was that Sandra Sameiro was leaving the Council and thanked her for her support and dedication. He wished her good luck in her future career.

34/24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

35/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Jaffay due to ill health.

36/24 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
Cllr. Waters	44/24	Personal	Council representative on FRSGA
Cllr. Lewin	45/24	Personal	Member of the Repair Café committee

37/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2023

Cllr. Hugo proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 21st November 2023 be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Lewin and AGREED

38/24 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. Feedback from the Personnel meeting : staff handbook/staff establishment changes - NOTED
2. Annual insurance & property revaluations – Cllr. Lewin proposed that a revaluation of the buildings be arranged. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED
3. Report on pre-school - NOTED
4. Committee structure & timetable of meetings – It was AGREED that the Asst Clerk would compile the list of committee dates as usual – NOTED

39/24 FINANCIAL REPORT – to month 10

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

40/24 LIST OF PAYMENTS

The List of Payments had been circulated in advance and was APPROVED.

Unity Trust from 6 th Nov 2023 to 30 th Jan 2024	£112,867.50
Pockit Card – David O’Driscoll 31 st Oct 2023 to 30 th Jan 2024	£ 250.33
Pockit Card – Carolyn Coomber 1 st Nov to 30 th Jan 2024	£ 1,502.39
Pockit Card – Gages 1 st Nov 2023 to 30 th Jan 2024	£ 1,472.71
Pockit Card – Youth 25 th Oct 2023 to 30 th Jan 2024	£ 653.82
Total	£116,746.75

41/24 BANK RECONCILIATIONS & COUNCILS INVESTMENTS

This had been circulated and was NOTED

42/24 RATIFICATION OF OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURE

There was much discussion about the recent incorrect posts on social media regarding a budget for the 3D model that was planned for March/April. It was explained that a lot of the 'buildings' were to be made by school children and group, and Councillors were donating their time.

Cllr. Eichner proposed to adopt the 3D model building project and allocate a budget of £200. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

43/24 TRIAGE OF OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM THE ISSUES & IDEAS LIST

The following list was discussed, and comments made:

Review Council Tax breakdown of costs e.g. Police – no presence: *No power.*

Blockchain – economy & distributed governance or hashgraph: *Not in the PC's remit*

Community Consensus decisions: *The PC is actively engaging with the Community*

Social Rent Rated – *not in PC's remit -WDC*

Bank of Dave – local bank: *FRocal is looking at this idea*

Be transparent: *The PC is striving to be this*

Introduce a limit of how long PC's can serve: *not in the PC's remit*

Forest Row Sports Ground Assoc – continue maintenance payments; *on this agenda*

Microphones used in meetings: *this is being looked into and will be reported at FC*

All phones off in meetings (electro sensitivity): *not possible due to various medical requirements*

Junior Parish Council: *Currently in discussion with the Youth Forum with the intention that this will go ahead*

The car park should be free for residents up to 2 hours but everyone else should pay: *not in the PC's remit – WDC*

Only use electricity on Saturday if its an emergency (age 6): *Great idea and we are sensitive to minimising energy usage but this is out of remit although it has prompted discussion managing the times street lights etc are turned on and off. We are currently in the process of changing all the street light bulbs to low energy ones*

Let the Repair Café keep using the community hall free beyond the currently approved 1 year: *on this agenda*

44/24 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Forest Row Sports Ground Association. Cllr. Eichner proposed that a grant be awarded of £ 2500.00. This was seconded by Cllr. Lewin and AGREED

St Catherines Hospice. Cllr. Hugo proposed that a grant be awarded of £ 500.00. This was seconded by Cllr. Lewin and AGREED

Holy Trinity church spire lighting. A member of public objected to this grant application. Cllr. Gilbert proposed that Holy Trinity Church be awarded a grant of £ 100.00 but with a note that this was not intended as a contribution to the church as such, but because it was a landmark in the village. This was seconded by Cllr. Hugo and AGREED with 1 against.

45/24 FOREST ROW REPAIR CAFÉ; FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Cllr. Lewin explained that the Repair Café was now running a surplus from donations. One of the options would be to share some of this surplus with the Council, by way of a donation. It was agreed that this could go into the 'Wellbeing Services' code.

Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the committee believes that the public and press to be excluded from the meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature to be transacted.

The public left the meeting.

These are appended as Confidential Minutes

47/24 TO NOTE ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL

Cllr. Waters asked that the Council looked into employing all on the National Living wage as a minimum.

Cllr. Gilbert suggested that volunteer stories could be include in future Newsletters.

Cllr. Gilbert suggested that a list of grants (including rent free holidays) made by the Parish Council be put on social media.

Cllr. Lewin asked that everyone look at the Mayfax newsletter with regard to services offered.

Cllr. Hugo asked that the grants Policy be clarified for the coming year.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

SIGNED:..... (Chairman) DATE.....

