

Minutes of a meeting of the **FINANCE and GENERAL PURPOSES** Committee held  
on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm

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Present	Councillors	Peter Bucklitsch Tracey Lovewell Kay Moss David Neeves Colin Stocks Matthew Street* Neil Waller	Vice - Chairman Chairman
Also present		Caroline Miles Karen Whiley	Town Clerk RFO

\*Denotes non attendance

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#### **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Matthew Street

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **MINUTES**

##### Minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

It was noted that Cllr Matthew Street was noted as being in attendance when he was not. This will be amended. It was noted that that the LCR magazine subscription will be cancelled from 2022.

- 9561 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman with the amendment as noted.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### To note the Finance Report and agree any action

Members noted the income and expenditure report.

Members noted the EMR report.

To review the current costs on outsourcing payroll and agree further action

It was agreed that with legislation changing so often together with additional workload on staff an external company would be better placed to continue with the work.

**9562 RESOLVED** to continue with the existing payroll provider.

To review and note the external auditors report and comments.

Members noted the report, it was pleasing to see such a good audit and thanked all staff involved in the audit process.

To agree the disposal of fixed assets

It was noted that the removal of the named assets will reduce the asset valuation given in the next AGAR report but will not affect the profit and loss.

Members welcomed the new, more robust, asset management system.

**9563 RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council the removal of the five items from the asset register.

To agree the transfer of funds between bank accounts.

It was agreed that as the Council will not be complying with 3.7 and 4.2 in the annual Investment strategy the document will be bought back to committee in December with suggested wording to replace that currently used.

**9564 RESOLVED** that £250,000 is transferred from the Council's Nat West account into the Lloyds 95 day notice account.

To note and agree the budget report for 2022/23 for recommendation to Full Council.

It was noted that the backup costs for ICT are high and should be looked at when reviewing the contract.

There are earmarked reserves for buildings maintenance for Pine Grove in addition to the budgeted figure noted.

The monthly drain clearing costs for Pine Grove must remain until a solution is found to the problem.

**9565 RESOLVED** to recommend the committee budget 2022/23 and the projected budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 to Full Council.

To agree energy renewal prices and agree further action

Whilst the Council's two largest contracts have been locked in other suppliers have retracted their offers. Rates are increased substantially. Whilst Engie may not be a British company or the greenest option it was agreed that due to the volatility of the market there was an immediacy to securing a supplier.

**9566 RESOLVED** to accept a 12-month fixed term contract with Engie.

**URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

None

**9567 RESOLVED** pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential staffing nature of the business to be transacted.

To note the Confidential report of Pine Grove

**9568 RESOLVED** to send a letter to include the phrase the company is in breach of contract.

To note the Confidential Aged Debtor Report

Members noted the aged debtor report

The meeting closed at 8.20pm