

Minutes of a meeting of the **FINANCE and GENERAL PURPOSES** Committee held in the Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillors	Peter Bucklitsch Suzanne Dixon Martyn Everitt Martyn Garrett Kay Moss Matthew Street Neil Waller Natalie Whittle	Vice-Chairman Chairman
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Also present		Caroline Miles Karen Whiley Tracie White	Town Clerk Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) Minute Taking Administrator
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27 members of public in the chamber

*Denotes non attendance

The Chairman welcomed representatives from the various organisations attending the meeting. Representatives of the organisations applying for grants answered questions raised by the committee.

APOLOGIES

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kay Moss declared an Interest in Item 4 as a council representative on Crowborough Fair Trade, as the applicant of the Good Company People is known to her and as a member of Green Transition Crowborough.

Cllr Martyn Everitt declared an Interest in Item 4 as council representative on Crowborough Fair Trade, as a helper of both Crowborough Community Orchard and Crowborough Wildlife Group and as a committee member of Green Transition Crowborough.

Cllr Natalie Whittle declared an interest in Item 4 as a member of Green Transition Crowborough.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2023

10435 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2023 as confirmed be ratified by the Chairperson.

A member of public left the meeting at 19:50hrs.

GRANTS

To consider the grant applications received and agree any action

10436 RESOLVED to award the following grants:

- Crowborough Action on Fairtrade (CRaFT) - £400
- Crowborough Bonfire & Carnival Society - £1,500
- Crowborough Community First Responders - £1,450
- Crowborough Community Forum - £500
- Crowborough Community Orchard - £300
- Crowborough Community Pantry - £1000
- Crowborough & District Anglers Association - £500
- Crowborough Wildlife Group - £300
- Crowborough Youth Group - £3000
- Ditch the Slippers - £1,500
- Good Company People - £2,350
- Green Transition Community Hub - £3,000
- Jarvis Brook Community Association - £1,125
- RAFAR 1414 Sqn (Crowborough) - £1,500
- Rotherfield St Martin - £500
- RVS Darby & Joan Club – 1,500

A total of £20,425 was awarded in grants.

4 members of public left the chamber at 20:29hrs

3 members of public left the chamber at 20:34hrs

5 members of public left the chamber at 20:35hrs

5 members of public left the chamber at 20:38hrs

2 members of public left the chamber at 20:49hrs

7 members of public left the chamber at 20:52hrs

FINANCIAL MATTERS

To note the current income and expenditure against budget and earmarked reserves (EMR)

The current Income and Expenditure position was noted.

Earmarked Reserves were noted.

It was agreed that the underspends from 2023/24 for Legal & Professional Fees and the IT Equipment are earmarked towards future costs.

10437 RESOLVED to earmark any underspends for 2023/24 from account codes 101/4058 105/4110 towards future costs.

To review the current loan position

The loan position was noted.

To note the Q4 report from Basepoint and the year-on-year comparison

The report was noted. Members were pleased to note that the funds from Basepoint look to cover the running costs and dilapidations of the building.

To review the Councils Internal Controls for the Committee's consideration and approval

Members noted the report and that statements 2,5,6 & 7 of the annual governance statement had been complied with.

10438 RESOLVED to recommend the internal controls policy to Full Council for approval.

To note the latest insurance claim information

The information was noted.

To review the report on investment activity and decide on re-investment

The report was noted.

10439 RESOLVED to invest £750,000 from the Natwest 95 day account to the CCLA Yield Tracker when it matures on 25th March 2024.

To note the signing of bank reconciliations

The report was noted.

To review and agree the asset inventory

The report was noted.

To agree a phone contract

10440 RESOLVED to move to a new phone system to a new supplier (option C) on a three-year contract at a total cost of £6,640.50.

DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN

To note the draft Business Plan and agree any further action

Members had nothing to add the Business Plan.

The plan will be resubmitted to F & GP for review once the RFO has completed her work on it.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR

It was noted that the community engagement officer had conducted an extremely successful grant application awareness campaign, that, together with the cost of living crisis had resulted in triple the amount of grant applications.

It was suggested that the Grants Policy be reviewed given the considerable number of applicants this year, particularly as some applications were from bodies who were being funded by local authorities. It was agreed that this be added to the agenda for October 2024.

EXEMPT BUSINESS

- 10441 RESOLVED** that 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 nature of the business to be transacted.

To note the confidential aged debt report

The report was noted.

- 10442 RESOLVED** to write off the debt from Line 11 of the Aged Debtor report if the amount was still outstanding at Year End on 31st March 2024.
- 10443 RESOLVED** to write off the debt from Line 14 of the Aged Debtor report if the amount was still outstanding at Year End on 31st March 2024.

The meeting closed at hrs. 21:29hrs