

GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on 19th December, 2019 commencing at 7.06pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Flynn (In the Chair), Bailey, Boatman, Bottomley, Harrison, Head, B Jeffreys, D Jeffreys, Moiser, Moore, Raspin, Turner, Vause and Walker.

OFFICERS: Mr. B Robertson (Town Clerk)
Ms. Stacey Norfolk (Responsible Finance Officer)
Mrs C. Brophy (Admin Assistant)

PR1909 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Marshall, Penn and Whitehead.

PR1910 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND THEIR NATURE**

There were no declarations of interest.

PR1911 **MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources meeting held on 21st November, 2019 approved at Council on 5th December, 2019 be signed as a true record by the Chair (Councillor Flynn).

This was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Moiser and **SECONDED** by Councillor B Jeffreys.

PR1912 **REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER**

Members were in receipt of the following reports.

(a) Monthly Payments – November, 2019

Councillor Turner queried an amount of £1568.68 payable to DN Electrical to disable alarm.

The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) informed Members that this should read disabled alarm, which was fitted at the Victoria Pleasure Grounds.

Councillor Turner also queried a payment to Swegon Limited.

The RFO explained that this was payment for replacing all valves to the air conditioning unit which is not covered by the maintenance agreement.

Councillor Turner queried a payment to Oxley Shutters.

The RFO explained that this was for repairs to the doors at the West Park café.

Councillor Turner also questioned the payment of £371.95 to Event Management for First Aid at the Bonfire Night event. He wanted to know how many people this covered.

Also queried were IOU Ltd Story Bus which was used at Junction's 10th Anniversary Celebrations. A payment of £7.99 to Amazon Prime and payment for accommodation for The Arts and Leisure Manager (ALM).

The RFO informed Members that she would look at the issues raised and report back.

A discussion took place regarding how often grass cutting takes place and also whether the contract for this goes out to tender.

Members were informed that grass cutting takes place from May to October and that the Contract goes out to tender annually.

Councillor D Jeffreys questioned the cost of the fireworks asking whether the price had risen.

Councillor Flynn asked whether the final costs for the bonfire night event could be reviewed.

The RFO informed Members that the report provided by The ALM provided accurate details.

Councillor B Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the schedule of payments for November, 2019.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor D Jeffreys.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments for November, 2019 totaling £153,506.34.

(b) Monthly bank reconciliation & Bank statement, November, 2019

Councillor D Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members **NOTE** the bank reconciliation for November, 2019.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor B Jeffreys.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the bank reconciliation for November, 2019

(c) Monthly Income & Expenditure – November, 2019 & Draft Estimate 2020/2021

Councillor Head informed Members that paragraph 3 – 3.2 is for actual costs. She said that this is not a true reflection of where we are now as there is nothing in Reserves. She said that the grant to the CIC did not come out of the VPG Budget but came out of Reserves and they would not have gone ahead if they had known.

The Town Clerk explained that the grant came out of the VPG budget and had to be brought in from General Reserves.

Councillor Head talked about the payment of £20,000 to Fishers for past invoices, stating that she suggested not paying but was outvoted. That money came out of Reserves.

The Town Clerk informed Members that there is a Statutory obligation to pay invoices for up to six years.

The RFO informed Members that procedures are now in place to stop this occurring again.

Councillor Head informed the RFO that she would like to see the figures for repairs for the previous five years.

Councillor Head also talked about pensions, where people had reduced to part time hours saying that £46,000 came out of Reserves for that. This is being paid back monthly by those concerned.

The RFO informed Members that the £20,000 for Fishers and the £46,000 for pensions came out of last year's Budgets. She stated that the Theatre is doing very well meaning that there is not the predicted loss as was expected.

Councillor D Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members **NOTE** the reports.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor B Jeffreys

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.

(d) 2019 Valuation Employer Results Report Draft from Hymans Robertson

Councillor Turner informed Members that the 1.7% increase in the pension scheme cannot be justified as it is one of the best pension schemes he has seen. He stated that the 19.9% employer contribution from 1st April 2020 is immoral which the tax payers of Goole are being asked to fund.

The Town Clerk informed Members that it is a Statutory scheme and that Statutorily Members need to note and approve the percentage change.

Councillor Head informed Members that in her view, they should note but not approve the report.

Councillor Moore **PROPOSED** that Members **NOTE** and **APPROVE** the report.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Walker

Councillor Head **PROPOSED** an amendment that Members **NOTE** and **ACCEPT** the report

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Turner.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried 9 to 4 and it was therefore **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** and **ACCEPT** the report.

(e) Interim Internal Audit Report

Councillor Flynn explained the traffic light system to Members saying that most items are yellow with just a couple of red Health and Safety issues.

The RFO explained that the new Auditor is process led and keen to get systems up and running.

One of the recommendations from the Auditor is that GTC become Members of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

The Town Clerk informed Members that he wouldn't advocate being a Member of NALC as adequate advice is already in place by PENINSULA and the SLCC.

The RFO stated that the Auditor recommended NALC as any Government changes are notified.

A discussion took place regarding the amount of money in Reserves.

The RFO informed Members that we are currently £128,000 short of recommended levels. She explained that there should be 3 months working capital. She asked for a thank you to be made to Finance Assistants Vickie Garner and Anne Bentley for their help and support with the audit.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the interim internal audit report.

PR1913

REPORT OF STEVE SHAW – POWERFORPEOPLE.ORG.UK – REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillor Head informed Members that ERYC run a good scheme for East Riding residents. ERYC shop around annually and forecast the cost to change provide. Residents must register to qualify. The scheme is called YORSWITCH and is well worth looking at.

Councillor Bailey thanked Councillor Head for the information saying that he was unaware of the scheme. He said that it may be beneficial to the Community as utility bills cripple society.

Councillor Moore **PROPOSED** that Members support the Local Electricity Bill.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Boatman.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members support the Local Electricity Bill.

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded for the following item under the public bodies (admission to meetings act) 1960 in that it contains commercial or personal information as defined under the local government act 1972 schedule act 12a the divulgence of which may be detrimental to the council

PR1914 MONTHLY DEBTORS – NOVEMBER, 2019

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillor Turner asked whether the agreement for Debtor A is set at £200 per month.

The RFO confirmed Members that it is.

Councillor Head asked whether court action has been started against Debtor C.

The RFO explained that she has responded to Debtor C's queries and she has been given a date in which to respond.

Councillor Bailey asked whether interest is being charged.

The RFO informed Members that interest will be charged if we use Money Claims Online.

The Town Clerk informed Members that originally Debtor D was given 7 days to respond.

Councillor Head asked why Debtor B is on the list.

The RFO explained that an agreement has been reached to increase the monthly invoice charge. She said that Debtor B had been given 6 months initially prior to bills being adjusted.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the Officer's Report.

Meeting concluded 7:45 pm

