

**GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 commencing at 7.12pm.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Flynn (In the Chair), Bailey, Bottomley, Handley, Harrison, D Jeffreyes, Marshall, Moore, Raspin, Turner, Vause and Walker.

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

**PR2048 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Boatman, B Jeffreyes, Moiser, Penn and Whitehead.

**PR2049 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND THEIR NATURE**

No declarations of interest were received

**PR2050 MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 approved at Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021 be signed as a true record by the Chair (Councillor Flynn).

This was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Turner and **SECONDED** by Councillor D Jeffreyes.

**PR2051 REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER/DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

Members were in receipt of the following reports.

(a) Monthly Payments – May, 2021

Members are recommended to approve the schedule of payments for May, 2021.

Councillor D Jeffreyes **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the schedule of payments for May, 2021.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Handley.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule of payments for May, 2021 totaling £191,931.45.

(b) Monthly bank reconciliation & Bank statement – May, 2021.

Members are recommended to approve the bank reconciliation for 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021.

Councillor Handley **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the bank reconciliation & bank statement for May, 2021.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Bailey.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the bank reconciliation & bank statement for May, 2021.

(c) Monthly Income & Expenditure – May, 2021

Members are requested to note the reports for 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021.



Councillor Flynn started a discussion about the recent by-election stating that people did not realise that it was on and where to go to vote. He asked why polling cards were not sent out and the cost implication of this asking whether the money could come from reserves.

The Town Clerk informed members that polling cards have not been issued in Town Council elections for many years. He stated that analysis has shown that the turnout is the same whether polling cards are issued or not. He said that house to house leafleting has also been tried to no avail.

Councillor D Jeffreys informed Members that when he and Barbara were first elected they had leaflets made, leafleted every house yet it made no difference, it was the lowest ever turnout.

Councillor Handley informed members that some Councils use polling cards and asked whether a vote is taken on the issue.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the East Riding ask the Town Clerk whether polling cards are required and it is an Officer decision. There is no justification for using polling cards as they are not cost effective.

Councillor Moore stated that most Councils do leaflet, however it makes no difference to public turnout. He asked about the possibility of a feasibility study into live video streaming.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a study is currently being undertaken nationally into remote meetings.

Councillor D Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members **NOTE** the report for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Turner.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021.

(d) Goole Town Council – Current outstanding repairs list.

Members are requested to approve the funding of the above repairs from the capital repairs reserve.

Councillor Turner asked the RFO/Deputy Town Clerk what could be done to look at the lower priority repairs given the shortfall in the capital repairs budget.

Councillor Turner questioned why it was not previously picked up that Riverside Gardens now needs electricity upgrades and kitchen refurbishment.

The Town Clerk answered that the electricity is a statutory obligation. The kitchen was not previously upgraded since uncertainty surrounded the catering offering proposed by prospective caterers.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that as there is currently £18,255.00 in the Capital repairs Budget therefore the 'red' priorities are being dealt with first This is however an ongoing/live document.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that they should increase the precept so that the capital repairs Budget can be increased.

Councillor Moore **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the funding of the above repairs from the capital repairs reserve.

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

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the funding of the above repairs from the capital repairs reserve.

PR2052

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AMENITIES WORKING PARTY**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Item no. 1 - Percy Street Play Area - The Town Clerk informed Members that the Percy Street play area issue

has been dealt with in the report of the RFO/Deputy Town Clerk.

Item no. 2 – The exclusion of American style caskets at Hook Road cemetery – The Working Party recommended that due to the size of these caskets, Undertakers should be advised that they are excluded from the Cemetery and that the cemetery rules and regulations and website are updated accordingly to reflect this.

Councillor Moore **PROPOSED** that Members **ACCEPT** the recommendation of the Working Party.

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

Item no. 3 – Allotment Bonds – The current bond arrangement is per tenant not per allotment. Many tenants have 2 or more allotments. The Working Party is recommending that on sites where there is a waiting list, a £50 bond per allotment be implemented. It further recommended that that if a tenant is issued with a Notice to Quit, no new tenancy will be considered for a period of 2 years.

Councillor D Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members **ACCEPT** the recommendation of the Working Party.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Bailey.

Item no. 4 – Charges for Use of West Park – Funfairs – The Working Party recommended that fees and charges be amended to £227.31 per day per 10 rides or less and each additional ride over 10 be charged at £25.26 per day (all charges to include VAT).

Councillor Raspin **PROPOSED** that Members **ACCEPT** the recommendation of the Working Party.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Handley.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations of the Amenities Working Party be **APPROVED**.

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded for the following items under the public bodies (admission to meetings act) 1960 in that they contain 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.

**PR2053**      **REPORT OF COUNCILLOR TURNER – UPDATE ON TOWN DEAL**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillor Turner informed Members that each project is being broken down into working groups. The Town Deal Board feels that the projects would benefit from at least one Councillor being on each group. Councillors can then feedback to the Council and speak to their ward constituents to find out what they want to achieve for the Town.

The Towns Deal Board has requested that Councillor Turner and Councillor Handley be on the Town Centre Public Realm group.

Councillors were asked to consider which projects they would like to represent and email names to Councillor Handley or Councillor Turner by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Councillor D Jeffreys expressed an interest in the VPG and Old Goole Broadband groups.

Councillor Flynn stated that he is interested in the Dutch River cycle way and improved flood banks.

Councillor Moore asked about the CCTV bid.

Councillor Handley answered that this is included in the Public Realm project. She said that this is the Council and public's wish list. What people want to make the Town Centre more attractive and to encourage more footfall. All ideas and options can be put forward and everyone should be involved. There is a lot of money to be spent. She would personally like to see some sort of water feature as Goole is water based.



A discussion took place regarding the Leisure Centre's makeover. ERYC and the Town Deal Board are both contributing to this. Councillors also discussed the Market Place, the pop-up Market in the precinct, the Station Hub and the Property Activation Fund.

Councillor Turner informed Members that although we have been granted £25 million, there is a £3.87 million shortfall to go with all the projects. We can either go with all projects (paying less for them), drop one of the projects or raise more money to go with all the projects.

Councillor Handley informed members that we are being guided by Peter Campey from the MCHLG.

**PR2054** MONTHLY DEBTORS – MAY, 2021

Members were in receipt of the above report.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Debtor C has made a significant payment since this report was created.

**PR2055** VPG CIC ACCOUNTS

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillor Moore asked whether the Accounts are being sent to the Regulator. He believes that they should be.

Councillor D Jeffreys informed Members that these are the first set of accounts. He added that they will be in the public domain once registered with Companies House.

Members agreed to **NOTE** the report.

**PR2056** SERVER UPGRADE

Members were in receipt of the above report.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the current server has been in place for the last 10 years without any upgrading. The system is now very outdated and needs to be brought up to date to integrate with latest software.

Two quotations have been received for the upgrade from Fluid Media and Kingston Technologies, details of which are outlined on the report. The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that money is in the Reserves for the server update.

Councillor Moore **PROPOSED** that Members **AGREE** to a server upgrade and appoint Kingston Technologies to carry out the upgrade.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Bottomley.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members **AGREE** to a server upgrade and appoint Kingston Technologies to carry out the upgrade.

**PR2057** RIVERSIDE GARDENS

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillor Handley, who was not a Goole Town Councilor at the time, asked why the rent was set at £150 per week.

The Town Clerk answered that it was a decision made at Council.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Draft Agreement initially suggested £33.50 per day.

This was discussed at Council where Councillors agreed to change this to £150 per week.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that of the 21 people who requested application packs, only 2 were completed and returned. All applicants were contacted via email by the RFO/Deputy Town Clerk asking for feedback, eleven people responded. All responses stated that there is not enough footfall in the area to make this a viable business all year round and that it would be difficult to sustain the £150 per week, especially over the winter months. Most people also thought that the café was currently ready to move straight into.

Advice was sought from East Riding Food Services Department who inspected the premises and their findings suggested that the current kitchen facilities were not fit for purpose. They suggested that the kitchen be ripped out, replaced and the electrics upgraded.

A lengthy discussion took place between Members regarding the £150 per week charge and the reasons that it was initially suggested.

Councillor Moore proposed that the original daily charge of £33.50 be agreed.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a Council resolution could not be amended for 6 months without a motion to do so signed by 9 Members. He added, however, that given the time taken to undertake upgrades to the kitchen and electrics and the securing of planning permission, it is likely that 6 months will have elapsed and Members can then rescind their decision.

Councillor D Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members endorse the plans to improve the kitchen and electrical installations.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moore.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members endorse the plans to improve the kitchen and electrical installations.

**PR2058 PROPOSALS FOR AN OUTDOOR MARKET**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

The Town Clerk informed Members that GTC never made a formal decision to run an outdoor market. The proposal was initially submitted to the Towns Deal Board and subsequently taken out of the Town Council's submission and included in the ERYC's town centre projects.

A discussion took place regarding the gazebos purchased by ERYC and the placing of the benches and tables in the precinct. Councillor Bailey's initial proposal was for 15 or 16 stalls. Due to the placement of the benches, there will now only be room for 12 stalls.

Councillor Bailey informed Members that many Market traders require tables dependent on the products for sale. This is why traditional table top stalls are needed.

After further discussion it was agreed to defer this item until the next P&R Meeting.

**Meeting concluded at 8.45pm**

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