

GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 commencing at 7.13pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Flynn (In the Chair), Bailey, Bottomley, Cooper, Harrison, B Jeffreys, D Jeffreys, Moiser, Raspin, and Walker.

**OFFICERS:** Mr B. Robertson (Town Clerk)  
Mrs S Norfolk (Responsible Finance Officer/Deputy Town Clerk)  
Mr P. Batten (Operations Manager Amenities)  
Mrs C. Brophy (Administration Assistant)

**PR2151** APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Boatman, Handley, Marshall, Penn, Turner, Vause and Whitehead.

**PR2152** TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND THEIR NATURE

A non-pecuniary interest was declared by Councillors Bottomley, D Jeffreys and Raspin. They are Members of the Friend of VPG.

**PR2153** MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 approved at Council on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 be signed as a true record by the Chair (Councillor Flynn).

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

**PR2154** REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER/DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Members were in receipt of the following reports.

(a) Monthly Payments –April, 2022

Councillor Harrison asked about the payment of £600 to Bradford Council for a poppy feature.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk answered that this is a one-off payment. We now have 2 poppy features. The Council was given a £500 donation from the Halifax, following their advert, which went towards purchasing the poppy.

Councillor Raspin asked about the payment of £1923.97 to ERNLLCA.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that this is our membership fee for ERNLLCA (East Riding & North Lincolnshire Local Council’s Association), which offers support and advice to the Council.

Councillor Moiser **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the payments for April, 2022.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that Members **APPROVE** the payments for April, 2022 of £119,922.89.

(b) Monthly Bank Reconciliation & Bank Statement – April, 2022

Members were asked to approve the bank reconciliation and bank statement for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

Councillor Bailey **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the bank reconciliation & bank statement for 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022..

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

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the bank reconciliation & bank statement for 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

(c) Income & Expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 (Year End)

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk explained her report, informing Members that we made a loss last year of £36,978 against a budgeted profit of £2,925. The budgets are set in October and the massive impact of the war in Ukraine, energy prices and the ongoing impact of COVID 19 has had a significant impact on the 2021/22 financial year. She informed Members that she expects another loss this financial year due to the unpredictable nature of the current economic climate.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Council needs to cut spending this year. The precept increase was only set at 2% and the cost of living has risen by 10%.

Councillor Raspin asked about the possibility of a loan.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that in this current economic climate she would advise against a loan and as the budget is set there is no available money to pay back a loan. She told Members that this needs looking at when budget setting in October.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed members that we are now having to increase the earmarked reserves and that the general reserve is decreasing just as we achieved acceptable levels.

Councillor Bailey **PROPOSED** that Members **NOTE** the report for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moiser.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

(d) Year End Transfers To & From Reserves

Members were requested to approve the transfers to reserves of £41,581 and from reserves £51,818.

Councillor D Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the transfers to reserves of £41,581 and from reserves £51,818.

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

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the transfers to reserves of £41,581 and from reserves £51,818.

(e) Appointment of Internal Auditor for the Financial Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023

Members were recommended to re-appoint Richard Dixon as the internal auditor for 2022/23.

Councillor Bailey **PROPOSED** that Richard Dixon be re-appointed as the internal auditor for 2022/23.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Bottomley.

It was **RESOLVED** that Richard Dixon be re-appointed as the internal auditor for 2022/23.

**PR2155** (f) Annual Governance Statement for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022

Members were required to consider the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the AGAR) for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022, for formal approval at Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

Councillor Bailey **PROPOSED** that Members consider the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the AGAR) for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022, for formal approval at Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that Members consider the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the AGAR) for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022, for formal approval at Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

**PR2156** (g) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

Members were recommended to approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the AGAR) for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 for formal approval at Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

Councillor B Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the AGAR) for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 for formal approval at Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Bailey.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the AGAR) for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 for formal approval at Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

**PR2157** (h) Asset Valuation Policy 2022/23

Members were recommended to set an asset valuation policy at acquisition cost.

Councillor B Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members set an asset valuation policy at acquisition cost.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Moiser.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members set an asset valuation policy at acquisition cost.

(i) Notice of Audit 2021/22

Members were recommended to note the report.

Councillor Bailey **PROPOSED** that Members **NOTE** the report.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Harrison.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members **NOTE** the report.

**PR2158** **JESSICA SHARP TO DISCUSS PICNIC IN THE PARK WITH MEMBERS**

Jessica addressed Members informing them that she is the organiser and founder of Picnic in the Park. The event started following the death of her Uncle Phillip to Ideopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of the disease and to fund raise for the charity. Many other charities will also have stalls there.

Jessica told Members that her Uncle Phillip loved West Park and because his birthday is in June, the event usually takes place on the first Sunday in June. This year it falls on the Platinum Jubilee Weekend which is extra special as Uncle Phillip was very patriotic. Jessica said that she wants this picnic in the park to be a day to remember as it will be her last one. She started this event as a one off, but it became so popular that it grew into a yearly event

which is now too big for her to organise alone.

Jessica is asking Councillors for help especially with setting up in the morning between 10.00 and 11.00 when stalls start to arrive. Also, to help with safety, safe parking and keeping the park tidy throughout the day.

It was agreed that several Councillors will help, with Councillor Harrison sorting out car park security.

Councillor Bailey said well done to Jessica on behalf of GTC for all her hard work and dedication to the event saying it is amazing how much one person can achieve. He said that it is extra poignant that it falls on the Jubilee weekend.

A discussion took part regarding the setting up of an event committee if picnic in the park was to carry on. Jessica informed Members that she has discussed the event with FOWP (Friends of West Park) who could help with organisation. She said that there is not a lot of cost involved as the fair and food stalls give a donation. She said that she would be happy to put something together.

The OMA informed Members that at a previous meeting, Councillor Turner suggested waiving the fee for the hire of West Park.

Councillor Bottomley **PROPOSED** that the hire fee for West Park be waived.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Bailey.

It was **RESOLVED** that the hire fee for West Park be waived.

Members voted all in favour.

#### **PR2159 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK – EXTERNAL BIDS**

Members were in receipt of the above report

It was recommended that:-

1. External bids are only submitted in accordance with the Council's priorities (the exception might be where a new funding stream becomes available, which does not impact on potential priority bids)
2. Any external bid is only submitted with prior Council approval

The Town Clerk informed Members that the report is self-explanatory, especially considering the RFO's earlier comments regarding spending and the unstable current economic climate. Any ongoing revenue should be taken into consideration prior to looking at any new project.

The OMA informed Members that he recently met with Laura Burley from the Windfarm Trust and the bid for the path in West Park was unsuccessful. Concern was expressed regarding the closeness of pedestrians and cyclists. Also, there are two other cycle paths which are underused.

A discussion took place regarding the path also being used by prams and wheelchair users. Members were informed that this was stated in the original bid. It was agreed that should the bid be reapplied for, letters of support should be obtained from FOWP, the Walking for Health Group and other interested parties.

The RFO informed Members that the two red items on the list at West Park can be funded out of reserves as they have been condemned during a play inspection.

The OMA informed members that the structural survey at the VPG is non urgent but does require sorting out.

A discussion took place regarding the car park extension at South Park. The OMA stated that the Windfarm bid was unsuccessful. They said that it is only required when there is a football match on. It is however, a huge issue when a match is on as Waltons are threatening to block access. This currently means that only one pitch can be used which also loses us revenue.

The OMA reiterated the need to prioritise projects.



Members **AGREED** to the Officer's recommendations.

**PR2160**     **REQUEST OF COUNCILLOR HANDLEY – RE-SITING OF CIRCUS**

Members were in receipt of the above report

This item was deferred until the next Policy & Resources Meeting.

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.

**PR2161**     **MONTHLY DEBTORS**

Members were in receipt of the above report

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Debtor A's utility bill standing order has gone up significantly which has contributed to the debt. She said that we are trying to buy collectively with ERYC could get us a much better deal.

**PR2162**     **UPDATE ON DIGITAL SURVEY BY ERYC**

This item was deferred until the next Policy & Resources Meeting.

**PR2163**     **REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK – VPG CATERING ARRANGEMENTS**

Members were in receipt of the above report

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the future of the VPG under the Towns Deal funding programme and the pending feasibility report it is recommended that the snack bar not be re-opened and that hirers be allowed to bring in their own mobile catering arrangements and retain any rent received for this.

Following lengthy discussion Councillor Walker **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the recommendation.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Bottomley.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members **APPROVE** the recommendation.

**PR2164**     **COUNCIL RESTRUCTURING**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations in the report be **APPROVED**.

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm

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