

GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on 15th December 2022 commencing
Following the Planning Meeting at 7.15pm

PRESENT: Councillors Flynn (In the Chair), Bottomley, Handley, B Jeffreys, D Jeffreys, Moiser, Raspin, Turner and Walker.

OFFICERS: Mr B. Robertson (Town Clerk)
Ms S. Norfolk (Responsible Finance Officer/Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr G. Whitehead (Head of Arts & Culture)
Mrs C. Brophy (Administration Assistant)

PR2216 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailey, Boatman, Cooper, Harrison and Vause.

PR2217 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND THEIR NATURE**

There were no declarations of interest.

PR2218 **MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17th November, 2022 approved at Council on 3rd November, 2022 be signed as a true record by the Chair (Councillor Flynn).

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

PR2219 **REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER/DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

Members were in receipt of the following report.

(a) Facilities Charges 2023/2024

Members were recommended to approve the facilities charges for 2023/2024.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk explained some of the updates and amendments to Members. When asked about our Cemetery charges in comparison to others, she informed Members that we were the cheapest. After carrying out a local comparison with eight other Principal and Parish Councils we have amended our fees

Councillor Handley queried the allotment charges asking whether they were very cheap. She asked whether it would be prudent to raise the bond charge especially as some allotments are very costly to clean/clear up when left in a state of disrepair.

The Town Clerk answered that under the 1950 Allotment Act, we are not cheap. There are 310 allotments over ten sites which are all full. We also have a waiting list. He added that allotments are now regularly inspected.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the bond was recently raised from £50 to £100.

On being asked, the Town Clerk informed Members that we lose approximately £2,500 to £3,000 per year on allotments. He added that other amenities are also subsidised.

Councillor D Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members **APPROVE** the facilities charges for 2023/2024.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that Members **APPROVE** the facilities charges for 2023/2024.

PR2220 **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ARTS & CULTURE – CHRISTMAS MARKET/CAR BOOT SUPPORT**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Councillors were asked to agree the proposal of the Events Working Party that £500 be transferred from the Goole Car Boot Fund to support the Christmas Event.

The Head of Arts & Culture informed Members that the Christmas Markets were a great success with lots of positive comments from members of the public. He said that an Events Working Party meeting is needed early in the New Year to discuss and plan for the Coronation, Bicentennial, and other events.

Councillor Turner said thanks must go to the Head of Arts & Culture for his hard work in making the Christmas markets a great success. He also highlighted how many positive comments he had received from the public.

Councillor Raspin added that it was testament to the Head of Arts & Culture's hard work.

The Head of Arts & Culture added that it was also thanks to Two River for partnering the event. He informed Members that a full report will be given at the next meeting.

Councillor Turner said thank you to Councillor Handley for her help.

Councillor Handley **PROPOSED** that £500 be transferred from the Goole Car Boot fund to support the Christmas event.

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

Members voted all in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that £500 be transferred from the Goole Car Boot fund to support the Christmas event.

PR2221 **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ARTS & CULTURE – BONFIRE NIGHT EVENT**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Members were asked to confirm their preferred date for Bonfire Night 2023.

- (a) To stay with the resolution and hold the event on Sunday 5th November
- (b) To amend the resolution and hold the event on another date

The Head of Arts & Culture informed Members that this year's Bonfire Night event was one of the most successful of recent years, with almost 6,500 people in attendance. A full report on the financial position will be given at the next Policy & Resources Meeting.

He referred to his report which states that the Council has passed a resolution that Bonfire events will always be held on Bonfire night. That means the 2023 event would take place on Sunday 5th November. A decision must be made as early as possible as to which date to go ahead with. We currently hold the final slot for a 5th November display, which needs confirming by new year.

Holding the display on a Sunday has a very slight financial implication, however, causes little disruption to other Park users including football and the park run which must be cancelled if the event takes place on a Saturday.

Councillor Bottomley **PROPOSED** that Members stay with the resolution and hold the event on Sunday 5th



November 2023.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Turner.

Members voted all in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members stay with the resolution and hold the event on Sunday 5th November 2023.

PR2222 **REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGER AMENITIES – GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL VIOLENCE AT WORK POLICY**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Members were recommended to adopt the policy.

The Town Clerk informed Members that our Health and Safety advisors have requested that this policy be updated.

Councillor Turner **PROPOSED** that Members **ADOPT** the policy.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Handley.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members **ADOPT** the policy.

PR2223 **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ARTS & CULTURE – JUNCTION GOOLE – CASHFLOW**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Members were asked to note the report.

The Head of Arts & Culture informed Members that this report will be shared with Arts Council England.

Various discussions took place including the wages bill, which is offset by income and Arts Council Funding, the £190,000 support and investment from the Council and whether ERYC could be approached for funding.

The Head of Arts & Culture informed Members that many Councils are not providing funding for the Arts.

Councillor Handley said that she would broach this with ERYC. She also asked whether Junction qualifies for small business rates relief.

The Head of Arts & Culture informed Members that we have budgeted £10,300 for business rates this year. It should be lower for 2023. He added that we are applying to ERYC to waive the business rates.

Members **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.

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.

PR2224 **REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK – SICKNESS ABSENCE POLICY**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

Members were recommended to adopt the Bradford Factor Sickness absence monitoring policy.

The Town Clerk informed Members that our new HR Advisors have recommended that the Council adopt this policy. He explained that it was developed in the 1980's and is used by 90% of Councils. It is fair, equitable



and transparent to all. He told Members that we don't have a big problem with sickness, this policy however highlights specific short term sick leave. It flags up any issues making it easier to manage sickness.

The Town Clerk informed Members that Line Managers have always managed sick leave and some discretion may still be required. If agreed the policy will be adopted when all staff have been notified.

Councillor D Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members **ADOPT** the Bradford Factor Sickness Absence monitoring Policy.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Turner.

Members voted all in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members **ADOPT** the Bradford Factor Sickness Absence monitoring policy.

PR2225 **REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER – INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 31st OCTOBER 2022**

Members were in receipt of the above report.

1. Members were recommended to note the report for the period ending 31st October 2022.
2. Members were requested to propose the precept based on the information provided and agree at the next Full Council meeting held on 5th January 2023.

Councillor Turner informed Members that he has discussed his concerns re an 8.68 percent increase with the RFO/Deputy Town Clerk. He does not see why our precept needs setting before ERYC's Council Tax is set.

Councillor Handley explained that ERYC's Council Tax is delayed and will be decided in January and ratified in February.

Lengthy discussions took place regarding the amenities being the Council's biggest outlay. Goole does however have many parks, gardens, CCTV, Junction, VPG, skate parks and the Cemetery. There are far more amenities in Goole than in places such as Beverley. The rising cost of utilities was also discussed.

The RFO/Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Councillors can bring their own budget to the Full Council meeting on 5th January.

Councillor Turner informed Members that they should meet to discuss the budget prior to the meeting in January.

Councillor Moiser suggested 7.00pm Thursday 29th December.

Meeting concluded at 8.40pm

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