

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held at the ODDFELLOWS HALL, 65 HIGH STREET, SALTNEY, WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillors V Gay, A Gregory, C Gregory, R Lloyd, M Parry, Ex-officio member, Councillor Hannah Jones and T Brown, Town Clerk

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Stephen Rodham.

**2 APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor Hannah Jones and seconded by Councillor Carol Gregory that Councillor Richard Lloyd be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED: That**

Councillor Richard Lloyd be appointed as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year.

**3 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: That**

the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**5 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES' PROPERTY FUND**

Members received the latest information from the CCLA which covered the period up to 31 March 2019.

**RESOLVED: That**

the CCLA information for the period up to 31 March 2019 be noted.

**6 GRANT APPLICATION**

Members were asked to consider the grant application and make any comments and or recommendations to the Council meeting on 10 July 2019.

The Clerk be asked to invite Darren Ankers, Wace, Chester CIC to the Town Council meeting on 10 July 2019 to answer any questions members may have on the application.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That**

the Grant application be submitted to Council for approval.

### **7 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Members considered the Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Gay, that Saltney Town Council enter into discussions with Flintshire County Council to consider a community Asset Transfer (CAT) to lease the housing land that is known as Beechwood Road Garden for the benefit of residents to enjoy, by taking this step using its powers under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in support of the current management group as they have indicated they can no longer manage or maintain the gardens due to other responsibilities and commitments - This garden was lovingly created for and by the residents of Beechwood Road and the surrounding area and I call upon Saltney Town Council to support this Notice of Motion to safeguard the future of this well laid out green space within the community.

Councillor Gay reported that the Beechwood Road, community garden completely overgrown, and requested that the Town Council enter into initial discussions with Flintshire County Council to see what options would be available.

Members agreed that the community garden was not fit for purpose in its present condition.

Councillor Jones moved the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr C Gregory:

“That Saltney Town Council requests Flintshire County Council housing caretakers maintain the Beechwood Road garden area with initial financial assistance from Saltney Town Council in the form of a general clear up, as the garden area at Beechwood Road has become extremely overgrown, then Saltney Town Council consult residents as to how they wish to proceed with the site”

Councillor Gay called for a recorded vote against the amendment in the interest of clarity and transparency for moving forward with possible options for the Beechwood Road, community garden.

#### **FOR**

Cllr C Gregory  
Cllr H Jones  
Cllr R Lloyd  
Cllr M Parry  
Cllr J Shallcross

**For 5**

#### **AGAINST**

Cllr V Gay  
Cllr A Gregory

**Against 2**

#### **ABSTAIN**

**Abstentions 0**

## **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That**

Saltney Town Council requests Flintshire County Council housing caretakers maintain the Beechwood Road, garden area with initial financial assistance from Saltney Town Council, in the form of a general clear up, as the garden area at Beechwood Road, has become extremely overgrown, then Saltney Town Council consult residents as to how they wish to proceed with the site.

## **8 INTERNAL AUDIT INTERIM REPORT**

The Clerk updated members on the recommendations and gave her explanations to each of them as detailed within the internal auditor's annual audit report.

The Clerk proposed to continue with the ongoing action plan and proposed to have a further interim audit in January 2020 following the budget being set. The proposed interim budget would allow the Clerk to resolve any outstanding issues prior to the annual audit in May 2020.

### **RCOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL; That**

- (1) the Finance and General Purposed Committee continue to work on the action plan and periodically report back to Council.
- (2) Council be asked to agree an interim audit in January 2020 following the budget being set for 2020/21.

## **9 ACCOUNTS**

In accordance with one of the instructions from the Auditors, that members receive a copy of the Annual Budget by Centre and the Detailed Receipts and Payments by Budget reports to enable members to contribute to the financial management of the Council.

Member considered the financial reports. No questions were asked of the Clerk.

### **RESOLVED: That**

the reports be agreed.

## **10 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

### **RESOLVED: That**

The press and public be excluding the public and press from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business under discussion the disclosure of which would be prejudicial to the public interest under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

- due to the financial business affairs of a third party.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS CONSIDERED IN PART B OF THE MEETING**

**11 RISK ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP - UPDATE**

Members considered three companies who could provide the Town Council with HR and Health and Safety support.

Each company provided detailed business plans and were interviewed by the Risk Assessment Working Group over the last few months in preparation for making a recommendation to Council to appoint one of the Companies.

Finance and General Purposes Committee agreed to put one company forward to Council for approval.

The resolution to this item is detailed in a confidential Minute *due to commercially sensitive information and the finance business affairs of third parties.*

Signed by the Chairman .....

Date.....