



Minutes of a meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee held on 11 October 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors K Critchley (Chairman), D Budd (Vice Chairman), M Cotton, Z Gover, V Green, M Russell, C Turner

Officers present: N Gray, Town Clerk & RFO

350. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr K Green who was poorly.

351. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

352. Public participation time

There were no members of the public present.

353. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Resources and Finance Committee held on 30 August 2022 were approved subject to the removal of the wording in minute number 271. “...*(subject to the following amendments)*” and would be signed by the Chairman following the meeting.

354. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Members considered the following matters which had arisen from the minutes of the previous meeting.

- **Street Cleaning**
An email had been included in the papers providing the Committee with an update on the street cleaning provision from Dorset and it was noted that further consideration would be given at the next Personnel Committee.
- **Water Cooler**
The Clerk provided a verbal report from the Finance Officer which set out the costs. It appeared that the service and maintenance charge used to be billed quarterly but was now being billed monthly with the average month now being approximately £40 for everything. It was suggested that further investigation be carried out to consider alternative cheaper options which was noted by the Clerk and the matter would return to a future meeting.
- **Dorset Council Parking**
The Clerk gave some clarity on the Car Park closures in December, advising that there may have been misunderstanding about the Dorset free parking days and that Dorset have confirmed the only Saturday in December they would be closing Dorset Car Parks was for small business Saturday. The Committee noted the information and agreed to continue with their free parking on Saturdays throughout December at Howard’s Lane car park and this should be widely advertised and promoted.

A discussion also took place about a Christmas market, and it was advised this would be on the Amenities agenda for consideration.

355. Payment of outstanding creditors

Cllr Budd asked what the 2 payments to SSE represented, as they were on the same day to the same company but were for differing amounts. The Clerk said she would speak with the Finance Officer to obtain some details and would circulate the findings by email.

It was **RESOLVED** the payments to creditors was approved.

356. Corporate Plan review

The Clerk noted the updates for which she was aware of that had been carried out were in red. It was noted the Plan was to cover 2021 to 2024 and the review was to consider progress being made across all areas, not to rewrite the plan or introduce new areas.

Members discussed the Parking Issues Working Party which had been disbanded but could reform at anytime should the need arise. Cllr Cotton noted the parking on pavements was increasingly worse and it was suggested a request to residents in Tower Chimes be made to not park on pavements and consider those in wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Members also discussed the need to improve efficiency, tree planting and the Town Council buildings. Cllr Budd noted he had not yet received the large plans which had been agreed at the Buildings Project Task and Finish Group and that another meeting needed to be scheduled for the group.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would liaise with the Operations Manager to see how far she had got with obtaining the large-scale plans from Tradewinds and arrange for these to be passed to Cllr Budd as soon as possible and for a meeting of the Buildings Project Task and Finish Group to be convened.

357. Amazon purchases

The Clerk confirmed that following the statement issued from the Committee there had been no Amazon purchases, although there had been a request to purchase which had been declined because there was a suitable alternative retailer with an account which had a Credit available.

Cllr Russell asked how much officer time would be wasted by going out and purchasing items in the town rather than ordering via Amazon. The Clerk noted that if works are planned as they should be each week, all necessary materials should be considered and ordered in advance from existing local accounts who would deliver if required. It should be a rarity for items to be needed the same or next day and not a general working practice. The Chairman noted that Amazon was still an option but should be used as a last resort and only with prior approval.

358. Remembrance Service

The Clerk advised that the Operations Manager had confirmed the Road Closure had been applied for and the Company had confirmed their attendance, but concern was

raised about the need to have the road closure notice as soon as possible, as the two-week advanced notice signs would be required very shortly. The Clerk further confirmed that the Operations Manager had advised the Risk Assessment would be carried out on the day by the Company, which the Clerk had expressed concern about as it should be shared with everyone involved in the event to advise them of the risks and mitigations being taken, or it served no purpose.

The Clerk confirmed she would be meeting with the Royal British Legion representative later in the week to get some semblance of organisation as she had been approached by the Cub Scout leader who had indicated their intention to parade.

The members expressed their deep concern that the road closure had not been shared and the Chairman demanded that the Road Closure be produced and shared with Committee members by 21 October 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Road Closure notice be shared with all Committee members before 21 October 2022.

359. Consort regalia

Members considered the report on the consort regalia purchase, and it was agreed that in the current climate the matter be put on hold until the national financial outlook had improved.

360. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

The Chairman noted the listed items on the agenda would be returning to future meetings.

The Clerk reported that she had received communication from the Daily Echo regarding a complaint they had received in respect of parking outside The Bear in South Street, and a non-committal response had been sent directing them to both Dorset Highways and the police.

The Clerk further reported she had received queries from an organisation called Help and Kindness, and BBC South in respect of “Warm Spaces” in Wareham over the winter months for the residents of Wareham. A response advising that “Not Just Sundaes” community café were welcoming those who needed somewhere to go.

The Clerk noted the announcement that the Coronation would be held on 6 May 2023, and this would need to be considered during budget setting.

361. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee was scheduled to be held at **7.00pm on 22 November 2022**.

Chairman..... Date.....