

Market Drayton Town Council

**Minutes of a Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting
held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 2 November 2023 at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs J. Beckett, T. Beckett, C. Chapman, G. Groves, R Hughes
(Chairman) W. Love, T. Manton, and I. Nellins.

ABSENT: Councillors: R. Aldcroft, M. Erwin and A. Sanderson.

In Attendance: 1 member of the public was present and 0 members of the public listening to the meeting via Teams.

Clerks: Sue Thomas, Town Clerk and Kate Harvey, Assistant Clerk.

1.FG APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor Aldcroft	-	Prior appointment
Councillor Erwin	-	Prior appointment
Councillor Sanderson	-	Work Commitments

2.FG DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- i. No disclosable interests were declared.
- ii. There were no applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011 received.

3.FG PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs Grundy spoke on the following issues:

- Shropshire Council being 23 million in debt and paying consultants to identify how savings can be made.
- Town Council funding the Citizen Advice Bureau and Greenfields Sports association.
- The Town Council not funding Artsfest.
- Reporting of issues to Shropshire Council and the lack of issues resolved.

Councillor Nellins responded that Shropshire Council are making savings this year without effecting services. Savings are required due to the rising cost of adult social care. He said that it is common practice to pay consultants to look at where money can be saved.

The Chair said that no application for funding has been received from Artsfest this year and that the Citizens Advice receive funding of around £4,000 from the Town Council.

4.FG MINUTES

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor T Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To approve the minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 7 September 2023.

5.FG GRANTS

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

i. Small Grants

Councillors considered the small grant request from Market Drayton Choral Society for £300.

It was agreed that the application met the criteria for funding.

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Nellins seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To award a small grant of £300 to Market Drayton Choral Society.

ii. Large Grants

To consider the large grant request from Market Drayton Choral Society for £2,000.

Councillors discussed the application for funding. Councillors agreed that as the funding was to pay for individual performers it would be classed as giving financial assistance to individuals, which is against the large grants policy.

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

Not to award Market Drayton Choral Society £2,000 as the application does not meet the criteria set out in the large grants policy.

6.FG NEW POLICIES

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillors considered the new Annual Investment Strategy and the new Treasury Management Strategy.

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To adopt:

**The Annual Investment Strategy
The Treasury Management Strategy**

The Chair suggested a working party to be set up to look at the Councils investments, he asked for volunteers for the working group.

Cllrs Chapman, Hughes, and Manton volunteered for the working group.

Councillors not present to be asked if they would like to be on the working group.

7.FG FINANCIAL REPORT

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

No questions were asked.

Councillor Nellins proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree the income and expenditure report for:

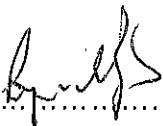
1 September 2023 – 30 September 2023.

8.FG UPDATES AND INFORMATION

The following updates were **NOTED:**

- i) Financial Regulations Section 2.2; the bank reconciliations have been signed off.
- ii) In the process of updating the Town Hall telephone system to include the Cemetery to move over to fibre has started.

The meeting concluded at 7.45 p.m.

Signed: 

Date: 14/12/2023