

Market Drayton Town Council

**Minutes of a Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting
held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 14 December 2023 at 7.22pm.**

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

ABSENT: Councillors: 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

No apologies have been received.

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:

- The Town Council increasing the amount of precept requested last year to the legal maximum amount.
- The dog warden enforcements discussed at a previous meeting; she handed out a list of foods that dogs should not be given that should eliminate upset stomachs.
- Dogs going into the Town Park even though there are clear signs stating they are not allowed; she asked for the CCTV to be viewed so this can be confirmed and appropriate action taken.
- Towers Lawn toilets: she was appalled the opening hours have been reduced. She expressed concern that visitors, residents and bus drivers not being able to use the facilities. She also said she has been monitoring the cleanliness of the toilets, she thinks there should be a full-time attendant situated there like there was previously. There are three toilets seats that urgently need replacing, two in the male's toilets and one in the disabled toilets. She offered a donation of £100 towards the cost of these being replaced.
- Newport Road toilets: she said she has visited these toilets; they were that dirty she cleaned them herself. She has before and after pictures to show members if needed.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Grundy for attending the meeting. He will put the points she has made to the next relevant committee; she is welcome to attend and bring along any evidence she has collected.

4.FG MINUTES

Minutes of a Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting on 14 December 2023

Initial: 

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 2 abstentions:

To approve the minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 November 2023.

Mrs Grundy left the meeting.

5.FG GRANTS

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

i. Small Grants

Councillors considered the small grant request from the Ukrainian Hub for £300.

It was agreed that the application met the criteria for funding and after a brief discussion:

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

To award a small grant of £300 to the Ukrainian Hub Market Drayton to help towards the hire of a minibus and petrol for two vehicles to allow a trip for Ukrainian refugees with children living in Market Drayton to see the Chester Zoo lights and a trip to Shrewsbury cinema to watch Ukrainian cartoons.

ii. Large Grants

Members **NOTED** there were no requests for Large Grants and there is £5,866 remaining in budget.

6.FG GRANTS 2024-25

i. Large Grants

A discussion was had on the Large Grant scheme ending at the end of March 2024 and potentially moving £5,000 to cost centre 301 under the Community and Governance Committee to be allocated to projects that provide support for the community and towards community events.

ii. Small Grants

A discussion was had about increasing the budget for small grants from £4,000 to £6,500 and to increase the maximum amount of grant from £300 to £600.

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

- **To end the Large Grant Scheme on 31 March 2024.**
- **To put £5,000 in the 2024-25 budget under cost centre 301 to be allocated to projects that provide support for the community and towards community events.**
- **To increase the budget for small grants to £6,500.**
- **The maximum amount of Small Grant to be £500.**

iii. **Small Grants Protocol and Application Form**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillors considered the changes to the protocol and application form.

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

To adopt the Small Grant Protocol and Application Form.

7.FG FINANCE AND GENERAL PRRPOSES COMMITTEE BUDGET 2024-25

The draft budget was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions regarding the budget.

No questions were asked.

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

To agree to the draft Finance and General-Purpose Committee budget for 2024-25:

Cost Centre	Description	Draft Budget 2024/25
201	Administration	155,220
202	Admin and Outside Staff Accommodation	30,470
203	Civic Activities	29,725
206	Miscellaneous (PWL B)	4,800
207	Small Grants	6,500
Total		226,715

8.FG BUDGET 2024-25

The draft budget for 2024-25 was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The Clerk reported she has received the precept information today; at present it looks like there will be a shortfall of approximately £6,000. This will be taken to the Council for discussion in January.

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

To agree the draft budget for 2024-25:

Expenditure	Proposed Budget 2024-25
Services and Facilities	372,315
Finance and GP	226,715
Community & Governance	27,500
Total	626,530

9.FL FINANCIAL REPORT

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

No questions were asked.

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

To agree the income and expenditure report for:

1 October 2023 – 30 November 2023.

10.FG UPDATES AND INFORMATION

The following updates were **NOTED:**

- i) Financial Regulations Section 2.2; the bank reconciliations have been signed off.
- ii) Transferring the telephone system to fibre has been completed.

11.FG EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC PRESS

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Aldcroft seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, and pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting and they are instructed to withdraw.

12.FG MARKET DRAYTON SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Members considered the quotes for the electrical compliances work at Greenfields Sports Ground received.

After an in-depth discussion:

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor J. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To appoint Contractor number 6 at a cost of £21,763 to carry out the EICR compliance work at Greenfields Sports Ground, subject to satisfactory references. Any additional work identified under dayworks to be approved by the Clerk. To be paid for from Earmarked Reserves.

The meeting concluded at 7.50 p.m.

Signed: 

Date: 22/2/2024