

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 13 June at 7.26pm.

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

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs J. Beckett, T. Beckett, P. Glover and A. Sanderson.

In Attendance: 2 members of the public was present and 1 member 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 apology:

Councillor J. Beckett	-	Work Commitments
Councillor T. Beckett	-	Work Commitments
Councillor P. Glover	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor A. Sanderson	-	Prior Arrangement

2.FG DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- i. Councillor Chapman declared an interest in Item 16.FG; he already has a dispensation and will be abstaining from the vote.
- ii. There were no applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011 received.

3.FG PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman said there are two members of the public that wish to speak at the meeting.

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

To suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak at the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Grundy to the meeting.

Mrs Grundy spoke about the following points:

- Towers Lawn Public toilets – The newly planned layout for the toilets doors to open on to the street should be revised, because people will have nowhere to shelter if it is raining when queuing up for them.
- Storm drains – They are not up to standard within the town to cope with the amount of rain and asked that the Town Council look into this.
- Fines – the fines for littering and dog fouling in a neighbouring council have increased, could the Town Council do the same.
- Town Park – There has recently been some anti-social behaviour on the Town Park, the police have put notices up; the Town Councils CCTV is obviously not working. The

sign for the park on the railings at Frogmore Road is broken and asked for this to be replaced.

Councillor Manton said no plans have been drawn up for Towers Lawn toilets; when they have a consultation will take place.

Mrs Grundy left the Chamber.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Foy to the meeting.

Mr Foy spoke about item 7.FG on the agenda. He urged Councillors to continue the live streaming of meetings as it allows residents who are not able to attend the meetings to listen in, it also shows that Town Council are transparent, stopping the live streaming would encourage negative complaints.

The Chairman thanked Mr Foy for attending the meeting.

4.FG MINUTES

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

To approve the minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22 February 2024.

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

To approve the minutes of an Extraordinary Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 21 March 2024.

5.FG SMALL GRANTS

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillors considered the seven small grant requests received as set out in appendix FG021.

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

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To award a small grant of £500 to:

Organisation	To Fund
1. Market Drayton Community Car	Towards car insurance, tax, and maintenance.
2. Market Drayton Day Centre (Age UK)	To allow the day centre to continue to offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A weekly supervised meeting point • Meals and drinks • Suitable games and events • Entertainment

3. Market Drayton Community Enterprise	Towards promotional and venue hire costs associated with MDCE hosting three health related events at the Festival Drayton Centre and The Grove School to residents within the town and surrounding area during the financial year 2024/25
4. Market Drayton Bowling Club (Joule's)	Towards a replacement mower
5. Market Drayton Victoria Bowling Green	Refurbishing the clubhouse and facilities
6. St. Mary's Wellness Group	To provide refreshments, art craft materials and travel expenses for the facilitator as well as engaging some outside speakers for some sessions
7. Market Drayton u3a	To help acquire advertising display stands, posters, and printed publicity leaflets in sufficient quantities that will explain u3a's purpose and usefulness to potential members.

6.FG LAPTOPS

Members considered laptops being issued to Councillors upon request.

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

This item to be put on the next Finance and General-Purpose Committee with costing to replace the laptops and to seek clarification as to whether using personal laptops to access the town council emails would be secure.

7.FG LIVE STREAMING OF MEETINGS

Members considered alternatives to live streaming meetings and whether live streaming should continue.

Members identified live streaming meetings is a valuable facility for residents wishing to listen to the meetings who may not be able to attend in person and it shows the Town Council are transparent.

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

To continue live streaming committee meetings indefinitely.

8.FG ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2023/24

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillors **NOTED:**

The 'Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return' Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024 commenced on 3 June 2024 and ending on 12 July 2024.

All notices are placed on the Town Councils noticeboard and website.

9.FG FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – MAY 2024

A new copy of the model Financial Regulations issued by Nalc dated May 2024 was circulated to members prior to the meeting to read through.

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

To adopt the updated Financial Regulations – May 2024.

10.FG NEW POLICY

Members considered introducing a new Community Support Policy for potential upcoming community events support within the town.

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

To adopt the Community Support Policy.

11.FG RISK REGISTER

Members considered the revised Risk Register with suggested changes made in red.

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

To adopt the amended Risk Register.

12.FG ASSET REGISTER

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

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

To agree the Asset Register up to 31 March 2024.

13.FG FINANCIAL REPORT

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

No questions were asked.

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

To agree the income and expenditure report for:

1 February 2024 – 31 May 2024.

14.FG UPDATES AND INFORMATION

The following updates were **NOTED:**

- i) Financial Regulations Section 2.6; the monthly bank reconciliations have been signed off.

- ii) Market Drayton Town Council have received a Neighbourhood Fund payment of £66,780.43 in May.
- iii) The External Audit has been submitted.

15.FG EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC PRESS

Councillor Chapman 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.

A member of the public left the Chamber.

16.FG MARKET DRAYTON SPORTS ASSOCIATION

- i) A verbal report was given regarding the electrical work at Greenfields.
- ii) After an in-depth discussion regarding Market Drayton Sports Association:

Councillor Groves proposed, Councillor Aldcroft seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To give an annual payment to Market Drayton Sports Association for the financial year 2024/25 of £25,500 to take account of the payment made for the EICR report.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Groves seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 6 votes for, 1 vote against and 1 abstention:

The annual payment to Market Drayton Sports Association to be reduced by equal increments over a five period, starting in 2025/26, until no further payments are made.

Members requested that the Market Drayton Sports Association were made aware of the resolution as soon as possible and a site visit to be organised.

17.FG INSURANCE

Abiding by Section 17.3 of the Financial Regulations members were informed of a vehicle claim.

Members **NOTED** the claim.

The meeting concluded at 8.37 p.m.

Signed: 

Date: 5/9/24