

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Finance, Policy and Governance Committee

Minutes for the meeting held on Monday, 10th January 2022 at 7pm,
in the Sandbach Town Hall Ballroom.

In Attendance Cllrs: A Smith
G Price Jones (Town Mayor)
G Merry
D Hegarty
N Adams
R Hovey
L Crane
S Crane

Members present for item 6 were Cllrs: S Broad, R Hoffmann (Left 8.15pm) and D Jack (Left 8.25pm).

Also present were the Operational Support Officer, Finance Officer and 5 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M Muldoon
Cllr S Kirkham
Cllr K Flavell
Cllr S Corcoran
Cllr A Nevitt

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned to allow questions from members of the public.

Speaker 1.

In relation to agenda item 7.1, provided background information on the project and details of the benefits to the users of the lower Bowling Green in Sandbach Park.

There being no further requests to speak, the Chair reconvened the meeting.

3. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There are none.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE MEETING ON 8th December 2021

Resolved: *That the minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting.*

5. CIL PAYMENTS – PLANNING & CONSULTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning and Consultation Committee noted that this was felt by the Planning Committee to be an appropriate use of CIL funds that benefits the residents of Sandbach Through infrastructural improvements. It was also noted that it is important that CIL monies are spent before being claimed back by CEC.

Resolved: That £5000 of the CIL payments received be allocated to the Small Common Refurbishment Project.

6. BUDGET 2022-2023

The Meeting Chair invited all Members present to take part in this discussion. Members thanked the Assistant Town Clerk and Finance Officer for presenting the budget in the way the Committee requested at its last meeting.

The following queries were raised about the budget, with answers bring sought for the Council Meeting where the budget is to be ratified:

101 4670 – New Purchases Projects – £20,000 - What is this and what does it include?

102 4000 – Salaries – Does this include extra headroom for new members of staff?

180 6100 – TH Light and Heat – Is this a fixed contract and if so for how long? Is it from Green Energy Sources/Renewable sources?

180 6124 – TH Condition Survey – Why is so much if the previous budgeted amounts appear to be unspent? Are unspent amounts committed or lost?

191 6124 – Indoor Market Condition Survey – Why is so much if the previous budgeted amounts appear to be unspent? Are unspent amounts committed or lost?

The following changes were made to the draft budget:

Resolved: That £2500 is added to 105 4300 Newsletter printing for at least 1 issue a year.

Resolved: That the total budget for 110 4611 Remembrance Parade: RBL Sandbach Branch be made £2000

Resolved: That 400 4600 Projects be changed to £0

Resolved: That the total budget for 102 4003 be made £70,000

Resolved: That £25,000 be added to 400 4614 Office Accommodation Project.

7. GRANT APPLICATIONS

7.1 Sandbach Partnership on behalf of Sandbach Park Bowls Club and Sandbach Park Steering Committee

Members discussed the application and were unanimously in support of the application. As it is above the £5000 limit the Committee are unable to approve, the Finance Committee recommend to Council that the Application is accepted.

Members asked the Meeting Clerk to gain an answer to the following questions prior to the meeting of full Council:

- i) Who will take ownership of, insure and maintain the toilet facilities once they go in?
- ii) Has permission been gained from CEC to install in the park?

Resolved: *That the application be recommended to Full Council for approval.*

8. SUPPLIER INVOICES [FINANCE]

There are none.

9. UNDISCHARGED RESOLUTIONS

The circulated table of undischarged resolutions was reviewed by the Committee. Members requested that either an update on the Pension Discretion Policy or the Full policy be tabled at the next meeting for consideration. The Chair confirmed that the Equality Policy has now been adopted.

Members also discussed the importance of protecting Council reserves. It was proposed that £400,000 of reserves be moved to CLLA, this proposal was amended and accepted by the original proposer to £500,000.

Resolved: *That it be recommended to Council that £500,000 of Council reserves be moved to the CCLA.*

10. LETTERS OF THANKS

There were none.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Pension discretion Policy
Grants Update

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting of the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee is Wednesday 2nd February 2022 in Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting closed 8.40pm
Cllr A Smith, Chair.

MW