

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Finance, Policy and Governance Committee

Minutes for the meeting held on Monday, 2nd February 2022 at 7pm,
in the Sandbach Town Hall Ballroom.

In Attendance

Cllrs: A Smith
M Muldoon
S Kirkham
L Crane
S Corcoran
S Crane
D Hegarty
R Hovey (arrived 7.05)
G Price Jones (arrived 7.10)

Also present were the Locum Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk and 5 members of the public and press.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: G Merry
A Nevitt
N Adams

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Corcoran

Declared that he is the Leader of Cheshire East Council, in the interest of transparency, but does not consider this prejudicial for any items on the agenda.

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

Speaker 1

Queried the lack of information and detail within the application for such a large grant and referenced the spreadsheet circulated to Members which is not published.

Speaker 2

Sought cost of recent by-elections and requested total cost spent by STC since the last election.

It was confirmed that the meeting clerk will obtain the information and email directly to the resident.

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 10TH JANUARY 2022.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting are approved as a true record.

5. FINANCE, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Lead: Chair of Finance

Resolved: The amended Terms of Reference are approved by the Committee and are to be presented to Council for adoption.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: INTERIM THIRD QUARTER 2021-22 STATEMENTS [FINANCE]

[Attached: Simplified Accounts Summary, Detailed Income and Expenditure Cost Centre Report, Bank Reconciliation.

Resolved: The third quarter statements are approved.

7. PAYMENTS MADE

Attached: [Schedule of Payments]

Resolved: The payments made between 1st October to 31st December 2021 are approved.

8. GRANT APPLICATIONS [FINANCE]

Attached: [Three Applications]

8.1 SANDBACH TRANSPORT FESTIVAL

Members received a verbal update regarding STC staff availability to support the event, per the email request from the event Treasurer, and were also informed that the Council's nominated Transport Festival representative has not been invited to organisational meetings and has, unfortunately, been unable to contact the group by phone. As such, there was no further information available.

It was suggested that the meeting clerk attempt to obtain further details of the 2022 plans in place.

Resolved: The application is referred back to Council meeting due to be held 9th February 2022.

8.2 SANDBACH PARTNERSHIP ON BEHALF OF SANDBACH PARK BOWLS CLUB AND SANDBACH PARK STEERING COMMITTEE

Following resolution made by Council on 18th January 2022, the finality of the proposal is delegated to the Finance Committee who can approve the grant, providing all questions are answered to the satisfaction of the Committee.

It was noted that several questions raised at previous meetings had since been answered. Having been advised that only one supplier can provide the specific model of toilet, query was raised regarding alternate quotes which would ideally have been included within the original grant application.

It was suggested that any grant payment be made directly to ANSA Limited and that the Council Officers works directly with ANSA to ascertain remaining queries such as:-

How would the planning application go through, will there be import duty costs, impact of odours and can further quotes be obtained for potentially lower cost?

Resolved: That payment directly to ANSA is approved, to a maximum value of £9,600 and subject to planning approval being obtained. Payment authority is delegated to the Locum/Acting Town Clerk in due course.

The meeting was adjourned to allow further public speaking.

A representative of the bowling group confirmed use by youth groups specifically invited to join events between April – September only.

The meeting was reconvened following this clarification.

8.3 SANDBACH BAPTIST CHURCH

They have applied for a grant of £750 to help improve wheelchair/scooter and pram access to their Oasis building.

Due to legislation prohibiting Council from spend on maintaining or improving Church property, other than Churchyard, the meeting clerk was asked to confirm with applicant the ownership of the building in order to establish if this is legality of awarding a grant.

Resolved: Authority is delegated to the Proper Officer to award the grant of £750, subject to it being confirmed as legal for Council.

9. GRANT FEEDBACK FORMS [FINANCE]

Attached: [Feedback from Friends of Sandbach Station]

Resolved: The note of thanks is received.

10. VEXATIOUS PERSON POLICY

It was confirmed that Cllrs Cook, Smith, L Crane and Price Jones would form the vexatious person policy and Cllrs Smith will call the first meeting via zoom, following usual advertising route for a meeting.

11. DIGNITY AT WORK AND STRESS POLICY

The Chair confirmed that the policies had been deferred to the meeting by Council and stated his concerns in respect of the Dignity at Work policy/Complaints about a Councillor which do not make reference to Employer's duty of care, Health and Safety at Work and Employments Right Acts.

Resolved: Councillor Smith to re-draft section relating to Complaints about a Councillor and circulate to Members and Council's HR Advisors, WorkNest, for comment before presenting the policies to the April Council meeting.

12. UNDISCHARGED RESOLUTIONS

[Attached: Report]

It was confirmed that the two items are now discharged from the report.

13. LETTERS OF THANKS

There are none.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

There is none.

15. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Co-option to the Committee of Cllrs S Broad and N Cook

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting of the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee is Wednesday 27th April 2022 in Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting closed 8.02pm

Cllr A Smith, Chair

KP