



**SANDBACH**  
Town Council

## **FINANCE, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Minutes for the meeting held on **Wednesday, 8 May 2024**  
At 7.00pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

Members Present: Cllrs J Arnold (Chair), S Corcoran (Vice Chair), G Lindop, N Cook, K England, D Hegarty, M Mitchel, A Nevitt, T Wheatcroft, L Crane (ex-Officio)  
Meeting Clerk: Ceri Lloyd, Chief Officer

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### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr A Nevitt & Cllr T Wheatcroft declared non-pecuniary, non-prejudicial interests in item 6.1.e; Cllr L Crane declared non-pecuniary, non-prejudicial interest in item 6.1.d.

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The Chair adjourned the meeting to allow contributions and open discussion relating to items on this Agenda from members of the public.

All organisations who had applied for a Town Council Community Grant (item 6) were represented and made comments in support of their application.

1. Age UK outlined the application to support a project for scam awareness to prevent the exploitation of vulnerable people. She responded to a number of questions and clarified that the aim was to reach over 60 individuals.
2. Sandbach United FC gave an impressive presentation of the diverse activities and groups they interact with across the town, which had resulted in being awarded the Cheshire FA award of the Inclusive Football Club of the Year. They requested support for five new coaches to extend the scope of their operation.
3. Sandbach Wildlife and Woodland Group requested support for the extension of their impressive local voluntary work to develop accessible pathways across the town – in particular St Mary's Wood off

- Brookhouse lane. The request was for a 3 year agreement to enable a sustainable and secure plan for local improvements to walkways.
4. Lions Youth Brass Band requested funding towards a special trip for those members of the top band tier who were unable to afford a trip abroad. This was to celebrate the Band's 35 Year anniversary and presented a fantastic opportunity for 40 young people through their musical talent and development.
  5. The Alm's Houses clerk explained that their reserves were fully committed for the substantial maintenance programme required due to the nature of the buildings. She requested support to cover the cost of bat surveys which were essential to allow work to proceed.
  6. Sandbach Cricket Club explained their urgent request for funding due to their boiler failing and preventing the club from functioning for all its users which span many ages and groups. The funding was for urgent repair not replacement.

After the public questions, the Chair thanked the representatives for their excellent presentations and reconvened the meeting.

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### 3. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

To consider, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), press representatives and public be excluded from the meeting for any of the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

Lead: Chair

**Resolved :** *No items were excluded from press and public.*

### 4. **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE MEETING**

[Attached: Minutes of the meeting held 7 February 2024]

Lead: Chair

**Resolved:** *The minutes of the 7 February 2024 meeting were approved as an accurate record.*

### 5. **FINANCE, POLICY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2023-24 BUDGET**

[Attached: RBS 2023-24 Budget & Actuals Summary]

Lead: Chair

**Resolved:** *The actuals against budget position for FPG Committee activities were noted.*

### 6. **GRANTS APPLICATIONS (OVER £500 and UNDER £5,000)**

#### **6.1 Grant Applications (over £500 and under £5,000)**

[Attached: Grant Applications received in Quarter 4  
6.1a Age UK – requested amount £2,491;  
6.1b Sandbach United Football Club CIO – requested amount £1,260;  
6.1c Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group (SWWG) – requested amount £2,000 for next 3 years;  
6.1d Lions Youth Brass Band - requested amount £4,800;

6.1e Sandbach Almshouse Charity - requested amount  
£1,524;

6.1f Sandbach Cricket Club – amount requested £1,820]

Lead: Chair

Members were impressed by all the applications and spoke in support of all of these. Comments were made about how fortunate the town is to have such excellent local community groups and clubs and that it was delighted to support these causes for the town. Noted that more publicity and communication should be made of both the local group activities and the Town Council's crucial support for their activities.

**Resolved:** *Grant applications 6.1.(a – f) were approved unanimously against the Council's grant application criteria, at a total cost of £13,895, from the 2024-25 budget provision of £ 30,975, including **approval for a 3 year agreement of £2,000 per year for SWWG.***

## 6.2 Grants Feedback

[Attached: Completed Grant Feedback Forms]

Lead: Chair

**Resolved:** *The feedback from Community Groups benefitting from Town Council grants was welcomed and noted.*

## 7. POLICY REVIEW – Training and Development policy

[Attached: Draft Training and Development Policy]

In line with the Policy Review Timetable agreed by Council, the Council's Policy Review

Lead: Chair

The comment was made that member training was not mandatory as this was unenforceable under the Council legislative framework but the clerk emphasised their duty of all members to undertake the necessary training to fulfil their roles and ensure that the Council had value for money from the training courses provided from public money. She also highlighted that the draft policy required the Council to keep training logs of all staff, members and volunteers which would be published on the website.

**Resolved:** *the draft policy was approved for recommendation to the next appropriate Full Council.*

## 8. CHALC Membership

[Attached: ChALC Membership 2024-25]

Lead: Chair

Some members emphasised this was good value for money for the Council.

**Resolved:** *The annual membership for Cheshire Association of Local Councils was approved.*

## 9. QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORTS

[Attached: 9a Q4 2023-24 BACS & DD Payments made;  
9b Q4 2023-24 CREDIT CARD Payments made;  
9c Q4 2023-24 Payments made Current Acc;  
9d Q4 2023-24 PETTY CASH Payments made]

Lead: Chair

**Resolved:** *Quarter 4 Financial Reports were approved.*

**10. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Lead: Chair

**Resolved:** *No specific items were agreed – standard items are policy review; grant applications under £5,000 and statutory finance reports.*

**11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be held on 7 August 2024 in Sandbach Town Hall Ball Room at 7pm.

Meeting closed 8.05pm  
Cllr J Arnold / CL

DRAFT