



SANDBACH
Town Council

FINANCE, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes for the meeting held on **Wednesday, 20 November 2024**
At 7.00pm in Sandbach Town Hall, Ball Room.

Present Councillors J Arnold (in the Chair)
N Cook
K England
D Hegarty
M Mitchel
T Wheatcroft
A Nevitt (ex-Offico)
Officers P Gorzka (meeting Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr S Corcoran, G Lindop, M Hough and L MacGregor.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Arnold declared a non-pecuniary but prejudicial interest in agenda item 7a and removed himself from discussion on the item.

The Chair adjourned the meeting to allow presentations and questions relating to items on this agenda from members of the public.

Speaker 1. C Storey inquired about the reductions to the green space maintenance budget (item 6). Discussing issues he saw with green space maintenance.

Speaker 2. H Merick raised further questions about the green space maintenance budget reductions (item 6).

Speaker 3. R Hovey commented about the community infrastructure levy (item 8) and the community cinema (item 11), referring to appendix 4 of the

Sandbach Neighbourhood Development Plan he listed spending priorities for the SIL money, which include playground equipment but not projector equipment. The speaker urged the committee to find an alternative use for the SIL money and to find a different budget source for the community cinema.

Speaker 4. K Sim, a representative of the Ettiley Heath Recreation Club gave a brief overview of their grant application (item 7b) which would be used to purchase tools to use to maintain the park.

Speaker 5. T Minay returned the topic to the green space maintenance budget reduction. He asked to committee to revert the budget reduction while the campaign group on the Grange Way continues to challenge CEC on their responsibility to maintain green spaces.

Cllr J Arnold. Responded to the comments regarding the green space maintenance budget reduction (item 6).

Informing the public that whilst last year a sum of money was allocated into the green space maintenance budget there was never a discussion, or decision made on its use. As such the money was not used.

In regard to this year's reduction as STC has not decided on if they are willing to cover the costs of maintenance of the green space on Grange Way, it is not necessary to currently budget for it.

However, if the council do decide to take over the maintenance of the grass on Grange Way there are provisions in the budget to fund the maintenance of the green space on Grange Way through the Ranger.

The Chair reconvened the meeting.

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 the press and public.*

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

[Attached: Minutes of the meeting held 4 September 2024]

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *The minutes of the meeting of 4th November 2024 were approved as an accurate record.*

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

[Attached: RBS Q1 2024-25 Budget & Actuals Summary]

Lead: Chair

The committee discussed the undesirable nature of the provided actuals which are currently behind schedule. The budget was confirmed to use current run rates and last year's actuals.

Resolved: *To notification of the actuals against budget position for FPG Committee Activities for Q1 is received.*

6. 2025-26 DRAFT BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

[Attached: Budget Report and Supporting Documents]

Lead: Chair

Members discussed the wording of the Council's Standing Orders in relation to whether the RFO is required to prepare the budget report or to personally present it during the meeting.

As the deadline to agree the budget is the end of January and to arrive at the most informed decision regarding the report the committee agreed to postpone the item.

Resolved: *To call an extraordinary meeting of the Finance, Policy and Governance committee meeting to discuss this item with an RFO present.*

7. GRANTS APPLICATIONS (OVER £500 and UNDER £5,000)

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

[Attached: Grant Applications received in Quarter 2
7a Girlguiding Norway– requested amount £500;
7b Ettiley Heath Recreation Club – requested amount £500;
7c Sandbach Park Bowling– requested amount £100]

Lead: Chair

Resolved:

- i. *Item 7a & 7c. In light of the additional information necessary to make an informed decision on these applications the agreement on these application(s) will be made through delegated authority by the Chair of Community & Environment Committee, AND the Chair of Finance, Policy and Governance Committee AND the Council's Chief Officer as outlined in the STC Small Grants Policy.*
- ii. *Item 7b. Grant application was approved with a grant of £500.*

8. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) REPORTING

[Attached: CIL report]

Lead: Chair

Resolved:

- i. *To send out an agenda item to the Parks and Open Spaces WG via email to make a recommendation to either the Finance, Policy and Governance or Full Council on projects to use of the remaining CIL money before the end of the year.*

- ii. *The publication of the Council's 2023-34 Annual Report setting out the CIL funding received and spent to date has been approved.*

9. QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORTS

9.1 Q1 PAYMENTS MADE

[Attached: 9.1a Q1 2024-25 BACS & DD Payments made;
9.1b Q1 2024-25 CREDIT CARD Payments made;
9.1c Q1 2024-25 Payments made Current Acc;
9.1d Q1 2024-25 PETTY CASH Payments made]

Lead: Chair

Resolved: The Q1 Financial Reports Payments Made have been approved.

9.2 Q1 INCOME RECEIVED

[Attached: 9.2a Q1 2023-24 Current Account Cash received;
9.2b Q1 2023-24 Bonus Saver Account Interest received;
9.2c Q1 2023-24 PayPal Cash received;
9.2d Q1 2023-24 CCLA Interest received]

Lead: Chair

Resolved: The Q1 Financial Reports Income Received have been approved.

10. SALIX GRANT – SOLAR PROJECT

Lead: Cllr Wheatcroft

Cllr Wheatcroft informed the committee on the Salix Grant application process and required documents.

Resolved: *The notification is received.*

11. COMMUNITY CINEMA

[Attached: Report from the Cllr Wheatcroft]

Lead: Cllr Wheatcroft

Cllr Wheatcroft informed the committee of the community cinema project he has been investigating including equipment, costs, and possible suppliers.

Resolved: *The notification is received.*

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *To consider and agree items for the next meeting.*

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 5th February 2025 at 7pm in Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting Closed at 7:50 pm

Chair Cllr J Arnold (in the Chair)

PG