

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2nd AUGUST 2022 IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7:30 PM.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Spackman (Chair), Hopkins, Josephson, R Lewin, T Lewin, Waters, Williams & Wogan

APOLOGIES: None

NOT PRESENT: Cllr Davies

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk. Gwen Pritchitt as a member of the public

120/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mrs Pritchitt questioned whether agenda item 8 should not more properly be discussed by the Community Services Committee, and whether agenda items 9 & 10 should not more properly be for Full Council to decide, as “matters of principle or policy”.

121/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None: Cllr Davies had not made contact

122/22 RECORDS OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 12th & 18th JULY 2022

Cllr. Spackman proposed that consideration of the records of the meeting held on 12th & 18th July 2022 be deferred until the next ordinary meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and **AGREED.**

123/22 CLARIFICATION OF (NON-CONFIDENTIAL) ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETINGS

Cllr. Spackman proposed that clarification of actions from the meeting of 12th & 18th July 2022 be deferred until the next ordinary meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and **AGREED.**

124/22 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

None

125/22 TO APPOINT A REPLACEMENT MEMBER TO THE PERSONNEL & GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE COMING YEAR (following a Councillor resignation)

The Clerk noted that there was a discrepancy. At the meeting of 14th December 2021, Committee decided that the P&G Committee should consist of 4 members, but this had been overlooked when the Scheme of Delegation, approved more recently, gave the number as three.

Cllr Josephson said the intention had been to have two core members with one extra for staff issues and another for councillor issues. She proposed Committee should today appoint two additional members as an interim measure and review the position in September. Seconded by Cllr Williams and **AGREED**
Cllrs R Lewin & Hopkins were appointed to the agreed vacancies by consensus.

126/22 TO NOTE AN EMPLOYERS' PAY OFFER TO LOCAL COUNCIL STAFF

The text of the offer (of a flat rate increase of £1,925) had been previously circulated, together with a spreadsheet showing the net effect for this Council on the salaries budget of about £25,000 for the year. This offer was not yet accepted by the unions, but any similar offer would have to come from Council's reserves. **NOTED**

127/22 TO CONSIDER THE POSITION OF THE FOREST ROW MARKET AFTER SEPTEMBER 2022

Cllr T Lewin said that Sue Young had confirmed she (and the set-up crew) would assure the September market. It was unclear on what basis she/ they would be paid. After some discussion over her status for September, it was suggested that either she received a flat rate, or via an invoice, based on her current hourly rate plus her current incentive bonus. The latter arrangement was formally proposed by Cllr T Lewin, seconded by Cllr Waters and **AGREED**

The discussion moved on to the markets post-September. There seemed a general consensus that the market should continue (and the basic admin is done until December 2022 inclusive). Cllr T Lewin had approached 'Frocal' (who had recently run the small farmers' market in the village), but they were as yet undecided. There was lengthy discussion as to whether an approach should be made to other local market managers, and how a set-up crew would be secured. There was some further discussion over the basis of hours (days per week?) and payment (flat fee or hourly rate?).

Cllr T Lewin proposed that to maintain continuity, the post of a contractor should be advertised to cover the October market, with (or without) a set-up crew, and after consultation with Sue Young as to the appropriate place to advertise. The possible use of our own maintenance crew to set-up as a stop-gap measure was also canvassed. This was not formally seconded.

Cllr Josephson counter-proposed that we advertise forthwith for a market manager on a contract basis to take over the market from October (with possible shadowing in September). Sue Young would be asked to provide a skeleton schedule of on-the-day management. The issue of a set-up crew would be optional. Seconded by Cllr Hopkins and AGREED with one abstention.

The following two items (9 & 10) were deal with under confidential business and are minuted separately.

131/22 TO RESOLVE TO NOTE ANY CORRESPONDENCE AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

AGREED by acclaim

132/22 TO NOTE ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

Cllr Waters stated that a 'closed' meeting *for the Finance & Policy members only* was required in respect of 'staffing matters', triggered by representations from former Cllr Hill. This was requested for next Tuesday at 7:30, staff members to be excluded.

Cllr Spackman noted that the 'principle' of re-instating the role of Community Development Officer appointment would be referred to Full Council.

The formalities for the replacement of Cllr Hill on the Council and Committees were raised.

Cllr Josephson wanted former councillor Vivien Hill to be invited as a lay co-optee to join the Property & Asset Committee

Cllr Wogan wanted salary spine points to be reviewed.

The meeting closed at 20:55

SIGNED:..... DATE.....

(Chairman)