

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14th DECEMBER 2021 IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30PM.

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. McNally and Moore

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk and Asst. Clerk

280/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

281/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given and accepted from Cllrs. McNally (family) and Moore (family)

282/21 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

283/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH JULY 2021.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th December 2021 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and signed as a true record.

No objections were made to deletion of the digital transcripts of the above meetings.

284/21 CLARIFICATION OF (NON-CONFIDENTIAL) ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None.

285/21 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. The accounts for 2020/21
2. Post-pandemic arrangements:
3. The Clerks sickness absence. Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Asst Clerk be thanked for taking over the duties of the Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED.

This report had been previously circulated and was

NOTED

286/21 FINANCIAL REPORT to month 8.

This had been circulated in advance and was NOTED.

287/21 LIST OF PAYMENTS

The List of Payments had been circulated in advance and was **APPROVED**.

Unity Trust from 14 th July 2021 to 1 st Dec 2021	£ 190,743.78
Pocket Card – David O’Driscoll 1 st July 2021 – 1 st Dec 2021	£ 987.79
Pocket Card – Carolyn Coomber 1 st July 2021 – 1 st Dec 2021	£ 2,029.26
Pocket Card – Gages 1 st July 2021 – 1 st Dec 2021	£ 4,169.16
Pocket Card – Youth 1 st July 2021 – 1 st Dec 2021	<u>£ 1,352.81</u>
TOTAL	£ 199,282.80

288/21 BANK RECONCILIATION & COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

The bank reconciliation and Council investments as at 30th November 2021 had been previously circulated and were NOTED.

289/21 DRAFT COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2022/23

A draft budget had been previously circulated. This was discussed. Cllr. R Lewin proposed that the draft budget be adopted with the matter of the PWLB repayments being discussed further at Star Chamber or Full Council before adoption of the total Council budget. This was seconded by Cllr. Josephson and AGREED.

290/21 TO CONSIDER THE 'STAR CHAMBER' STAGE OF THE BUDGET PROCESS

Over the last 5 years, there has always been a meeting of Chairmen between the adoption of drafts by their respective Committees and presentation of the consolidated budget to Full Council. The purpose of this meeting – referred to as 'Star Chamber' is to consider the draft departmental budgets alongside one another to see what refinements and trade-offs may be desirable to achieve a more economic consolidated budget.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that Chairmen have a 'Star Chamber' meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED.

This would take place on Tuesday 21st December via Zoom at 4.15pm.

AGREED

291/21 TO CONSIDER THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Cllr. Josephson advised that the Personnel Committee had been very busy this last Summer and Autumn with various issues and as Cllr. Moore has temporarily 'stepped down' due to family issues, this only left 2 Councillors on the Committee.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Personnel Committee have 4 members. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that Cllr. Wogan join the Personnel Committee to deal with any Code of Conduct or Standing Order issues. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and AGREED.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that Cllr. Waters join the Personnel Committee to deal with any staffing issues. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and AGREED.

292/21 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO RUN THE REPAIR CAFÉ INDEPENDENTLY

This has already been approved in principle by Community Services Committee.

Cllr. T Lewin proposed that the Repair Café be run independently by Sara Smart. This was seconded by Cllr. Josephson and AGREED with 1 abstention.

293/21 TO CONSIDER GRANT APPLICATIONS

An application for a grant for the Repair Café had been received to cover the first 3 months hire of rooms in the Community Centre.

Cllr. R Lewin proposed that instead of a grant, the Council gives 3 months free room rental. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED.

An application for a grant had been received from the Parochial Church Council of Forest Row to refurbish and repair the clock at Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row. Cllr. Wogan proposed that a grant be given in the sum of £ 1000. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and voted upon, 2 for and 5 against. Cllr. Josephson counter proposed that a grant be given of £ 1431.00. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED.

An application for a grant had been received from Ashdown Woodturners Association

Cllr. Hill proposed that a grant be given in the sum of £ 100. There was no seconder for this.

Cllr. Wogan proposed that a grant be given in the sum of £ 200. This was seconded by Cllr, T Lewin and AGREED.

An application for a grant had been received from Victim Support (Sussex).
Cllr. Hill proposed that a grant be given in the sum of £ 300. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and
AGREED.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Minute numbers **294/21 & 295/21** are attached as Confidential minutes.

296/21 CORRESPONDENCE

None

297/21 TO NOTE ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL

Cllr. T Lewin asked that the matter of the Repair Café be put on the Finance & Policy agenda in March.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.

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

(Chairman)

