

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16th JULY 2024 IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30PM.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Gilbert , Eichner, Jaffay, la Djoï, Taylor-Smith & Waters

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Hugo & Volkers

**NOT PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk & Deputy Clerk and 1 member of the public

**118/24 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Cllr. Waters proposed that Cllr. Gilbert be Chair of Finance and Policy Committee for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor-Smith and AGREED.

Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that Cllr. Waters be Vice-Chair of Finance and Policy Committee for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr. Jaffay and AGREED

**119/24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

**120/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Hugo due to work and Volkers due to ill health.

**121/24 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
Cllr. Taylor-Smith	130/24	Personal	Director of Frow Resource
Cllr. Waters	131/24	Personal	Family member of freeholders of Medway Park

**122/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024**

Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and AGREED

**123/24 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION**

1. External Audit - The Clerk reported that the papers had been submitted to PKF Littlejohn by the due date. NOTED
2. Property revaluations and asset register revision – The Clerk advised that these had both been completed NOTED
3. Fire Safety system & intruder alarm - Both have been fully and professionally renewed. NOTED

**124/24 FINANCIAL REPORT TO MID-MONTH 4**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED  
[A number of queries were raised by Members over individual entries in the accounting summary and payments list and these were clarified by the Deputy Clerk]

**125/24 LIST OF PAYMENTS**

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

Unity Trust from 1 <sup>ST</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	£186,632.74
Pocket Card – David O’Driscoll 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	£ 241.31
Pocket Card – Carolyn Coomber 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	£ 573.89
Pocket Card – Gages 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	£ 3,503.30
Pocket Card – Youth 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	<u>£ 662.45</u>
Total	£191,613.69

**126/24 BANK RECONCILIATION & INVESTMENTS**

These had been previously circulated and were NOTED

**127/24 BANK SIGNATORIES**

It was AGREED that Cllrs. Eichner and Taylor-Smith would become signatories on the Unity Trust account.

**128/24 COUNCIL’S INSURANCES FOR 2024/25**

There was much discussion about the alternative proposals. Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that the Council take up a 3 year insurance policy with Zurich Insurance (on a VAT-inclusive basis for the buildings). This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED. Cllr. Eichner proposed that the Council should take out cyber insurance. This was seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and AGREED

**129/24 HAMBRO HALL; FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

Negotiations have taken place with On My Side as to the terms of their occupation of the Hambro Hall. Cllr. Waters proposed that the Clerk and the Chair of Finance (with the Chair of Council to be consulted in case of difficulty) to negotiate the terms of tenure, rent & maintenance with On My Side and to report back confidentially to Council on completion. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor-Smith and AGREED.

**130/24 THE CUBE: FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

Tony Lewin spoke about the Shed Project. He advised that although Frow Resource did not wish to lease The Cube for its own purposes, they wanted to support the Shed Project and would be subsidising its occupation of the Cube. Cllr. Gilbert proposed that the Council should continue to support the project in The Cube for 12 months rent free and then review – details to be finalised. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

**131/24 THE JFC FIELD; FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

Cllr. Eichner proposed that this be pursued with the intention of a long lease. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

**132/24 A POLICY ON ‘HOSTILE ARCHITECTURE’**

Cllr. Eichner spoke on this matter. Cllr. Eichner proposed that Council formulate a new policy against hostile architecture. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED.

**133/24 CONTRIBUTION TO POTHOLE REPAIRS**

The residents of The Mews had recently employed a contractor to repair potholes along the access road. They had asked the Council if they would consider making a donation as the ‘maintenance team’ use part of the road for access to their yard. Cllr. Waters proposed that a contribution of £ 250 be made along with a letter sent explaining that this was an ex-gratia payment in recognition of the use of the Council along the accessway. This was seconded by Cllr. Jaffay and AGREED.

**134/24 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Wealden Citizens Advice Bureau: After a series of suggestions, the Chair asked for a group consensus: Cllr. Gilbert proposed that a grant of £ 500 be made. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED.  
KSS Air Ambulance: Cllr. la Djoï proposed that a grant of £ 300 be made. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.  
Anderida Practice: Cllr. Gilbert proposed that a grant of £ 500 be made. This was seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and AGREED with 1 against.

**135/24 TO NOTE ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL**

Cllr. Jaffay asked that the grants policy be reviewed.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

SIGNED:..... (Chairman)      DATE.....