

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor), Sid Abbott (Chairman), Lisa Bird, Kenson Gurney, Peter Hollick and Johnson Tamara

In Attendance: Councillor John Gurney (remotely), David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), David Brough (Senior Finance Manager, remotely), Lisa Scheder (Finance and Procurement Manager, remotely), and Ian Reed (Democratic Services Manager)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Philip Crawley, Matthew Brennan, and John Gurney (who attended remotely)

Public Attendance: None

142. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 21 June were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

143. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

144. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented the financial monitoring report for the period ending 31 July 2021. Members also noted the details of year end balances and earmarked reserves as of 31 July.

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive made members aware of the current challenging financial position the Council was in. The summary showed a potential overall net revenue overspend at the end of the financial year of £53,644.

The Committee also reviewed updated Financial Regulations that had been amended to reflect recent staffing changes as well as minor amendments to internal procedures.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be noted.

RECOMMENDED: That the Council approve the amended and updated Financial Regulations as submitted.

145. PROPOSED COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR THE YEAR 2022

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented the report and sought approval for the draft calendar of meetings for 2022.

RESOLVED: That the calendar of meetings for the year 2022 be approved.

146. UPDATE ON WORKING TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRAL INITIATIVE AND ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS

The Committee considered an update report on progress made with the baseline assessment of the Council's greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. It was noted that further reports would be submitted to the Working Group on proposals to establish a baseline using a self- assessment tool. It was likely that a further report would be submitted to the November meeting of this Committee. The Committee also received an update report on Central Bedfordshire Councils'(CBC) Electric Vehicle Chargepoints plan and the Town Councils' submission of an expression of interest form for charge points to be installed at various Council owned car parks. Further details on this initiative would be reported to future meetings of this Committee.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be noted.

147. MENOPAUSE REPORT

The Committee considered a report that requested the adoption of a Menopause Policy which had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approves the adoption of a Menopause policy as appended to the report.

148. REFERRAL FROM GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a report that sought General Reserve spending approval. The Grounds and Environmental Services Committee had been advised of the details of the building and footpath repairs required at Dunstable Cemetery and were made aware of the estimated cost of the works at £92,304. Members noted the balance of funding available from the Cemetery Building Reserve which currently stood at £33,962 and the subsequent shortfall in funding required to complete the works.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approves the release of up to £58,342 from the General Reserve to undertake all the works identified in the report submitted to the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee.

149. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

CAB Management Committee – no update.

Dunstable International Town Twinning Association – Councillor Hollick reported that although there was no update at present the Association was very keen to set up visits in the near future.

Hospice at Home Management Committee – new members of staff had been appointed.

Ashton Almshouses Charity – new boilers were being installed in properties.

The meeting closed at 19.35