

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 07 July 2021 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A Carr

Vice-Chairman : Cllr J Sayers

Councillors : Cllr J Desmond, Cllr S Doherty, Cllr K Hughes, Cllr T Hughes, Cllr P Mc Kinley

Officers : D Healey, S Lawrence, A Mc Intyre

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr Josh Burns and Cllr Carlsen.

2 Declarations of Interest

None Notified.

3 Public Participation.

Due to Covid 19 Regulations public attendance at this meeting will be limited to 6 people.

4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2021 for Finance & General Purposes Committee were approved as a correct record.

5 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements Year end

Members were informed that, due to the pandemic MTC had lost income of £36,466.14. This was due to the building being closed to the public and the rebate on rent for the Council's leasees. However, due to a number of other factors which include:-

1. Reduction of expenditure due to the pandemic
2. A main contractor did not charge the Council the full contractual price.
3. Unfilled post in the Facilities team
4. No events

MTC made a saving of £45,149.66. The recommendation was this amount be transferred to earmarked reserves to pay towards the Town Hall re-wire. The Rhino statue in the Town Centre was paid for by Maghull Town Council in the first instance. The funding for it would be provided by ward funding and S106 funds on a 50/50 basis.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Members agreed the transfer of £45,149.66 earmarked reserves;
2. That the report be noted.

6 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements New financial year

Members were informed that it was too early in the year to predict trends other than the income across all departments was likely to be low.

Town Hall

The income was likely to change given that the lease for the Venue was currently

being negotiated. The budget continued to be monitored robustly given the fact that the Town Hall was still closed.

Facilities

It is anticipated that additional income would be received should sports teams reform and request usage of the pitches. Additional income has been received via a grant from the Mersey Forest for the planting of whips on several of the Council's parks.

Community Services

The events income detailed was for Pinder's Circus, the Council has also received income from a previous MTC Mayor's fundraising activities. The purpose of that Mayor's fundraising during their time as Mayor was to support local children's activities. The money has been donated with the proviso that the money be used to support Youth provision in the community.

RESOLVED that the Financial Statements as of 31st May be noted.

7 Internal Audit Report

Members were informed that MTC employs Knowsley MBC Audit Team as their internal auditors. This year's audit (2021) focused on Risk Management. The audit highlighted that MTC needed to update the Risk Management Policy, ensure that staff are issued with a copy, that training is provided for both staff and Members and that robust systems were in place.

Peninsula, an external company, had recently been contracted to do a full Health & Safety risk assessment and would provide training for staff. The auditor also highlighted that although the risk register states what the risks were in terms of finance, it also needed to demonstrate when they are being monitored. The risk register had been updated to reflect these changes.

Members asked for a calculation to be completed regarding MTC pension commitment to show the level of risk.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. Officers would provide a calculation to show the level of risk for MTC pension commitment for the next available F & GP Committee;**
- 2. Members agreed the amendments to the Risk Register;**
- 3. The new Risk Management Policy be produced and taken to the next available F & GP Committee;**
- 4. That the report be noted.**

8 Code of Conduct

Members were informed that the Local Government Association (LGA) had published a model Councillor Code of Conduct (the Model Code). The Model Code, was described by the LGA as 'designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government'. In accordance with the Council's statutory duty to promote and maintain standards of conduct members were asked to consider whether the new code should be adopted by the Council in its entirety or in part or to keep the current code. Code of Conduct training sessions will be held for all members should it be adopted.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. All members agreed the new Code of Conduct and to recommend its**

adoption to Full Council;
2. That the report be noted.

9 Confirmation of Personnel Sub Committee

Members were informed the Personnel Sub Committee was a sub-committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. This Committee now needed to meet and as such its membership needed to be agreed. Political balance rules required the following to sit on the sub-committee; four Labour members and one Conservative member.

Cllr J Sayers informed this political balance has changed now as MTC have two independent Cllrs. Therefore a seat be gifted to independent party. Also due to gender inbalance Cllr Y Sayers was nominated.

Cllrs suggested following:

- Nominated Cllr Sean Doherty (Chair) - Independent Party
- Cllr Thomas Hughes - Conservative party.
- Nominated Cllr Yvonne Sayers - Labour Party
- Cllr Chris Carlsen - Labour Party
- Cllr Josh Burns - Labour Party

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. The members of the Personnel Sub Committee be agreed as detailed above for the forthcoming municipal year;**
- 2. The report be noted.**

10 Chairs Report

Thanked the Finance team for excellent work throughout the pandemic.

11 Exclusion of Press & Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded due to confidential nature of the item under discussion.

12 Debtors to the Council

The Finance Officer gave brief overview of the debtors to the council. Prior to lockdown a number of invoices were issued to users of the Town Hall and other buildings. The Finance Officer recommended that now lockdown was easing the Council recommenced the debtors' procedure. This could lead to the Council pursuing debts via debt recovery agencies or Sefton Legal Services once all the debtors' procedures had been followed.

Members agreed to continue to suspend the debtors policy due to Covid-19 and defer any decision until next F & GP meeting in September 2021.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1. This item be deferred until next F& GP meeting in September 2021;**
- 2. The report be noted**

 29/9/21



