



Meeting (No) **Finance & General Purposes (1)**
Time & Date **7th June 2016 at 6.00pm**
Place **Neston Town Hall**
Document **Minutes**

Present: Councillors Carter, C Lloyd (Chair), P Lloyd, Marlow and Shipman and Mrs A Kunaj (Town Clerk)

In attendance: Cllrs Chambers and Wilkie.

Cheshire West and Chester Council officers Steve Bakewell (Senior Waste Contracts Manager) and Jody Sherratt (Waste Contracts Manager)

Absent: Cllr Jilani

PART 1: Items to be considered in the presence of the press and public

1 Election of Chair

Resolved: To elect Cllr C Lloyd as the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee to serve until the first meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee in the new Council year

2 Election of Deputy Chair – *this item was deferred to the next meeting.*

3 Questions and comments from residents: None.

4 Apologies for absence: None. Absent: Cllr Jilani noted.

5 Declarations of Interest: None.

6 Neston Recycle Centre

The Chair thanked the CWaC officers for their attendance. Following invitation from the Chair, the officers gave a report. A copy of the report was provided to the Clerk.

Concerns were raised about the proposals:

The type of enforcement measures that would be taken to stop fly tipping; the distance to the alternative sites; the reduced number of days that the Neston site will be open; the type of waste that the Neston site can accept, and how this may effect businesses, and the whole consultation process itself. The inequality of provision across the sites as an issue was identified.

Officers assured members that these aspects had been considered and it was concluded that this process would provide efficiency through output. A number of annual reviews would be taken. The consultation plan had been, for delivery through every door.

The town council formally requested to be involved in the process; that the outcome of the consultation would be fed back, and also requested that CWaC have regards for equity in the provision.

The Chair thanked the CWaC officers for their attendance.

The CWaC officers and Cllr Wilkie left the meeting.

7 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: To approve minutes of the meeting 05.04.16 as true and correct record, to include for item 101 '...recommendations within...' The Chair signed the minutes.

8 Clerk's Report: The report was received.

Staging: The cost of £250 from New Homes Bonus earmarked reserves for the delivery of the remaining parts of the staging and the roof was noted.

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9 F&GP Budgets

- a The F&GP committee budget to 31.03.15 was considered.
- b The F&GP budget to 01/06/16 was considered. The Clerk/RFO explained that a New Homes Bonus (NHB) budget had not been set as funds for the identified projects would be taken from NHB earmarked reserves.

10 End of Year Accounts

- a The end of year accounts and report were considered. It was noted that there had been an income of £429,962 and expenditure of £445,733 resulting in £15,771 more expenditure than income. The year-end projected figure (at precept time) less the actual year to date resulted in an under-spend of £18,806.
- b The end of year earmarked reserve report were considered and agreed.
- c The FGP Chair gave a report on budget planning (as agreed at Full Council 19/01/16 item 120d). The FGP Chair will meet with the other committee Chairs to discuss the proposed planning process for the longer term and will formally table a proposal for recommendation to Council at the next FGP meeting.

11 Finance

- a **Resolved:** To approve the expenditure of £18,753.98 net
- b The income of £52,737.10 was noted
- c **Resolved:** That the reconciliation of the alto card account to the alto card bank statements to 31.05.16 agreed. The Chair signed the balancing figures.

12 Communication Strategy

- 1 Cllr Shipman asked members to consider,
 - a determining objectives of the Council's communications strategy;
 - b the strengths and weaknesses of the Council's current disparate communications media, and the potential for additional media, in pursuing its objectives, and
 - c agree a course of action to improve direction, management and operation of the Council's current and future communications media in fulfilling its communications strategy.

The committee agreed to set up a Task & Finish group to consider the questions raised by Cllr Shipman relating to a communication strategy and to look at the possible courses of actions to improve the direction, management and operation of the Council's current and future communications media in fulfilling its communications strategy. Cllrs Carter, Chambers and Shipman were nominated as members.

- 2 It was agreed that the communication strategy Task & Finish group would consider the request for a separate section of the Neston Town Council website to be developed to give prominence to Public Transport information related as set out in the motion FGP1/12.2, related to the Neston Town Council Public Transport Standard.

13 Strategic objectives

- a The Strategic Objectives Review report was considered.
- b The programme or works was agreed as follows:
 - Establish a 3 year strategy for the budget
 - Oversee efficiency savings of an agreed percentage
 - Safeguard against any increase to council tax band 'd' properties for the town council element
 - Develop a communication strategy via the Task & Finish group

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- Report on performance and deliver a co-ordinated report to Council on the strategic objectives
- c To agree performance measures – *to be determined at the next meeting*
- d A strategic objective table using the traffic light system will be completed by the Clerk in liaison with the FGP Chair for the next FGP committee meeting.

14 Task & finish/working groups

- 1 To agree establishment, remit and nomination of membership to:

- Website working group

It was agreed that for the interim period the current website working group would continue to update the website and have the same remit and membership until recommendations were made by the Task & Finish group.

- Newsletter task & finish group

This will be considered by the Task & Finish group as part of the communications strategy – *see above item 12.1.c*

- 2 The establishment of other working groups was not agreed.

15 Neston Station Improvements - CCTV

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that;

The remaining balance of the earmarked reserve of £9K (NHB) plus £1K from the Transport earmarked reserve (currently totalling £3.4K) is allocated as Neston Town Council's contribution to the cost of installing CCTV on the basis that the balance of funding (£23K) would be raised from partners such as CWaC, Transport Police, Local businesses etc. This is subject to prohibitive running costs and by approval of Council via approval by the Planning and Environment and Town Centre committees.

16 Cheshire West and Chester Parking Strategy

To nominate representatives to attend at the two workshops both held on 9th June at Neston Town Hall. *This item was withdrawn.*

17 Committee meeting dates

The committee confirmed the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting dates as, 26/7/16, 20/09/16, 22/11/16, 13/12/16 and 21/03/17 as published on the town council's schedule of meetings.

18 Other Items: None.

19 Next meeting: The next meeting dates was confirmed as 26th July 2016

Meeting closed at 7.56pm

Chairman's signature and date

 26.7.16