



Minutes of a meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee held on 12 September 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors K Critchley (Chairman), D Budd (Vice Chairman), M Cotton, Z Gover, V Green, D Robinson, C Turner

Officers present: N Gray, Town Clerk,

PRF 029/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Russell and Cllr K Green.

PRF 030/23 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PRF 031/23 Public participation time

There was 1 member of the public present who spoke in respect of the Rugby Club Lease, in particular highlighting the work the rugby club did to support other local organisations and that the club was a non-profit making organisation. The gentleman hoped that the Council would consider the opportunity to grant a longer lease to enable the club to secure grant funding for various repair and improvement projects, which would benefit local people as well as the club members.

PRF 032/23 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, held on 1 August 2023, were **APPROVED** and would be signed by the Chairman following the meeting.

PRF 033/23 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

PRF 034/23 Payment of outstanding creditors

Members considered the list of payments for authorisation, and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments listed as item 6 which totalled £37,132.07.

PRF 035/23 August Bank Reconciliation

The Bank Reconciliation for August was **APPROVED**.

PRF 036/23 Risk Management Strategy

The Clerk explained the purpose of the report, which had been already approved by full Council, and noted the annual paper was only ever presented to Council as it forms part of the AGAR for which only Council may approve.

The members accepted the further explanation regard the purpose and content of the report, noting it had been approved by Council at its last full meeting.

PRF 037/23 Review of Asset Register

Members noted the Asset Register had been submitted to Council and the Clerk explained that it was for members to confirm the items on the register were correct and that there was adequate insurance coverage.

Members raised questions on the number of laptops held by Council, with the Clerk confirming that Rejuvenate would know how many had been issued.

The purchase value of 2 Mill Lane was queried, and it was identified that the £263,422 cost listed as purchase value was in fact the refurbish cost done some years ago and therefore should not be listed as the purchase value. The property was gifted with conditions and should be listed as £1 purchase value, not the

refurbishment cost, to meet the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance compliance.

The Clerk also noted the duplicate telephone box had been removed.

The Committee received the Asset Register with the above amendments.

PRF 038/23 Rugby Club Rent and Lease

The Committee considered the report and the comments made by the member of the public during the public participation section of the meeting and concluded that the matter needed to have a line drawn underneath it and the opportunity to move forward for both organisations was key.

It was **RESOLVED** that the existing debt dating back to 2020 of £881 be immediately written off.

Members considered the request to enter into a new longer-term lease with the Rugby Club to facilitate them to raise funds for a number of capital projects, such as new floodlighting. It was considered that the positive work being done by the rugby club was raising money which was reinvested back into the club to provide better services, and this should be supported. It was also considered that a longer lease would protect the green space

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council to enter into a new 99-year lease with the Rugby Club at an initial rent of £2,000 per annum to be reviewed on a 5 yearly basis.

PRF 039/23 Proposed Mayoral Chain

Members discussed the pros and cons of commissioning a lighter weight mayoral chain on ribbon and it was identified that the Mayor's expenses held enough budget to cover the purchase as the Mayor had no further expenses to claim.

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the proposed mayoral chain and presentation box at a cost of £1538.46 inc VAT.

PRF 040/23 Dorset Council Parking (Verbal)

The Clerk asked members to consider which days they would like to suspend public parking payments in December for Howards Lane Car Park, and which dates they would like to request Dorset Council also suspend parking charges.

It was noted that small business Saturday was being held on 2 December which, if the parking charges could be suspended on that day, would be appreciated by local businesses. It was also noted that in 2022 the 4 Saturdays in December saw parking charges suspended in Howards Lane car park, but that Dorset Council would not agree to the same concession, so were unlikely to do the same this year.

It was **RESOLVED** to withdraw parking charges in Howards Lane on 2, 9, 16 and 23 of December, and to request Dorset Council do the same in their Wareham Car Parks also.

PRF 041/23 Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

There were no items deemed urgent.

PRF 042/23 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.00pm on 24 October 2023.

Chairman..... Date.....

Initials.....

S:MEETINGS/PolicyResourcesFinance/CommitteeDocs/Minutes/2023