

PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Station House, Station Road, Padstow

Present: Councillors R Higman (Chairman), J O'Keefe (Vice Chairman), Mrs J Dawe, K Freeman and M Rickard

In Attendance: Mrs N Barnes (Responsible Financial Officer) and Samantha Daly (Support Officer and minute taker)

- FGP2022/16 Apologies for absence and announcements:**
i) Apologies were received from Councillors A Flide, Mrs T Walter and C WatsonSmyth.
ii) The Chairman announced he had been approached by a member of the WI who had expressed thanks for the PTC Community Grant towards the hearing loop in the WI hall which was working well.
- FGP2022/17 Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- FGP2022/18 Public Participation:** There was no public participation.
- FGP2022/19 Minutes Tuesday 19 July 2022: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2022 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.
- FGP2022/20 Budget Summary and Budget to Actual Variance Report:** The budget report, providing an overview of the total income and revenue expenditure from 1.4.22 – 31.10.22 and explanations for any significant variances, was noted and thanks were expressed to the Responsible Financial Officer.
- FGP2022/21 Budget Report 2022-23:** A review of the budget for 2022-23 was noted.
- FGP2022/22 Budget 2023-24:**
Members' Allowances: **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL THAT** no members' allowances be set for 2023/24.

Grants: Members gave consideration to setting a provision of £60,000 for the Council's community grant scheme. It was noted that this was an increase on the current year's provision of £25,000 but that there was room in the budget. Comment was made that the grants pot was decided annually and if finances were different in future years, then this would be reflected. It was also noted that the Council did not need to spend the whole £60,000 and that grants were discretionary.

RESOLVED to agree the inclusion of £60,000 for grants within the draft Budget 2023-24.

Committee Recommendations: The Chairman referred Committee to the Draft Budget papers including the recommendations from Committees.

RESOLVED to accept the Budget meeting recommendations of the Staffing, LTOS and HRT Committees, including fees and charges, for inclusion within the draft Budget 2023-24.

General Reserves: Members noted the Council's General Reserve Policy, being to hold a minimum of one year's revenue expenditure in free reserves (the General Fund) and that this was reflected in the Draft Budget.

Ear Marked Reserves (EMR): Consideration was given to the future of the NDP EMR, to increasing the Grounds and Properties EMR and the creation of an EMR in respect of acquiring cemetery land.

RESOLVED to agree the following inclusions within the Draft Budget 2023-24: i) the removal of the £5,000 NDP EMR; ii) increasing the Grounds and Properties EMR by £10,000; and iii) creating a £50,000 EMR for investigating options for acquiring Cemetery land.

Draft Budget 2023-24: In response to a member query the Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that the Draft Budget contained a £60,000 contingency provision, an increase on last year of £10,000 and a community events provision of £15,000, an increase on last year of £5,000. These provisions would help to cover additional costs arising from the current economic climate and arising from the Core Building projects.

Members were supportive of the Draft Budget and had no further recommendations for inclusion.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL THAT the Draft Budget 2023-24, as detailed in the agenda papers, be approved.

Precept 2023-24: It was not considered necessary to set a Precept for 2023-24. Comment was made that the public should be made aware that this may not always be possible if the current spate of vandalism continues.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL THAT no Precept be set for 2023-24.

Business Plan: The Chairman referred Committee to the Business Plan and the suggested updates in 2024-25 including the Lawn garages area improvements of £150,000 and the Dock Wall repairs of £65,000, which members were supportive of.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL THAT the updated Business Plan be agreed, as detailed in the agenda pages.

FGP2022/23

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 21 February 2023 was noted (grants meeting).

Meeting closed at 7.17 pm