

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 20 JUNE 2022 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Councillor Brooks (Chair) together with Councillors Drake, E S Goodjohn (Vice Chairperson), N Hodges, S Hodges and McKinney

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Sims – Deputy Chief Officer
Hannah Linton – Administrator
Councillor Johnson – Observer

F1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Davies-Powell and Payne.

F2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

F3. **WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

RESOLVED: That the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 be received and noted.

F4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

RESOLVED: That the terms of reference for the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee were received and noted.

F5. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2022**

Referencing minute number F347 (Events 2022/23), Councillor S Hodges queried Barry Round Table and the Barry Rotary Club's request for a meeting regarding Fireworks for November 2022, as her understanding from the Committee's previous meeting was that the Fireworks event would not take place in 2022 and members agreed in principle to re-purpose funding from Fireworks to the Festival of Lights. The Chair agreed with Councillor S Hodges stating that she understood the Fireworks was not taking place in 2022.

The Deputy Chief Officer confirmed that Barry Round Table and Barry Rotary Club were advised of the Council's position due to the Vale of Glamorgan Council advising that they did not expect and made no provision for the Fireworks event to go ahead due to the pandemic. The Deputy Chief Officer stated that Barry Round Table and Barry Rotary Club would like for the Firework Fiesta to continue if Barry Town Council were able to provide the funding, hence their request for a meeting to be held with all parties.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee held on 31 January 2022 be approved and signed as correct record.

F6. **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR JUNE 2022**

Members were provided with the schedule of payments for June 2022 consisting of cheque number 002978, direct debits and BACS payments, in the amount of £10,882.68.

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments for June 2022 consisting of cheque number 002978, direct debits and BACS payments, in the amount of £10,882.68 be approved.

F7. **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 MAY 2022**

Members received a report containing details of the Council's income and expenditure in the 2022/23 financial year as at the end of May 2022.

Councillor S Hodges queried the costing of electricity due to the current price rising across the United Kingdom.

The Deputy Chief Officer confirmed that the Council's Gas and Electric contract for the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery and Pioneer Hall are due for renewal in August, which will undoubtedly be higher. The cost of Gas and Electric at Town Hall is included in the lease agreement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the renewal date for the Cemetery Approach Community Centre is next year.

The Chair noted that the budget may have to be reviewed new contracts are agreed.

Councillor S Hodges queried when the Vale of Glamorgan Council would be reviewing the lease agreement in regards to the cost of gas and electricity provided.

The Deputy Chief Officer agreed to check the lease agreement and advise members by email.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Deputy Chief Officer provide members with the review dates within the lease agreement for Town Hall.**
- 2. That the budget monitoring report for May 2022, indicating actual income and expenditure up to the end of month two in the 2022/23 financial year, noting the projected underspend of £1,590 for 2022/23 that will result in a net amount of £36,380 being transferred from reserves be approved.**

F8.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS 2022/23

Members were provided a report to review the Council's Annual Grants Giving exercise prior to launching the Council's 2022/23 Grants.

The Chair suggested increasing the Community Grants budget by £3,882.50 resulting in £45,000 being available for the remainder of the year.

The Deputy Chief Officer requested that members consider the grants categories / breakdown for the remaining £45,000 within the Community Grants budget. Members agreed to revert to the previous breakdown from pre-pandemic levels being:

Grants to Voluntary / Community Organisations	£25,000
Books for Schools	£10,000
Grants for Local Businesses	£ 3,000
Christmas Meals Grants for Older People	£ 2,700
Green Grants	<u>£ 4,300</u>
Total	<u>£45,000</u>

The Deputy Chief Officer advised that he was aware the Chief Officer is finding it rather difficult to get all members of Council together for a Corporate Plan Workshop to discuss the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027 that would have provided the Council's ambitions for the coming years. Therefore, members may want to recommend to the meeting of Full Council that a Working Party be set up for initial discussions around Council's intentions and ambitions relating to the £150,000 budget provision ring fenced for arts, culture and entertainment.

Councillor S Hodges agreed that all Councillors should be involved in the decision of allocated a large amount of funding, and agreed for a working party meeting for Councillors and Officers to voice their ideas and opinions.

The Chair agreed with a Working Party meeting to discuss the allocation of the money.

Councillor S Hodges recommended encouraging all Councillors and Officers to send their written suggestions in to the Council to ensure all ideas had been discussed.

The Deputy Chief Officer suggested a working party meeting be held before summer recess of around 12 Councillors from a range of parties to discuss all suggestions made.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Community Grants budget be increased by £3,882.50 from the General Reserve.

2. That the grants categories for the remaining £45,000 be agreed as follow:

Voluntary / Community Organisations	£25,000
Books for Schools	£10,000
Grants for Local Businesses	£ 3,000
Christmas Meals Grants for Older People	£ 2,700
Green Grants	<u>£ 4,300</u>
Total	<u>£45,000</u>

3. That the documentation provided as Appendices to the paper be approved and that officers be authorised to proceed with launching the 2022/23 Community Grants Scheme on Friday 1 July 2022 to Friday 12 August 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

4. That a Working Party be set up (consisting of twelve members) to discuss Council's intentions and ambitions relating to the £150,000 budget provision, ring fenced for arts, culture and entertainment. (All members are encouraged to provide written suggestions in to the Council to ensure all ideas considered)

F9. **MINDFULNESS GARDEN AT CEMETERY APPROACH GARDENS (FORMER SITE OF AIR RAID SHELTER)**

Members were provided with a report to request 'Match Funding' for the Mindfulness Garden Project at the Cemetery Approach Gardens.

The Deputy Chief Officer advised that the Town Council applied for, and was successful in obtaining, funding from the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Stronger Communities Fund for the Mindfulness Garden on the former site of the Air Raid Shelter at Cemetery Approach. We had hoped to receive full funding of £18,910.17 however the Vale of Glamorgan Council granted £10,000 requesting the Town Council provide 'Match Funding' of £8,910.17, which had been omitted from the Council draft budget for 2022/23 and therefore members were requested to approve a new expenditure heading 'Special Projects/Mindfulness Garden in the amount of £8,910.17 from the General Reserve.

The Chair commented that completing the project would link in the area to what had been achieved already at the Cemetery Approach Gardens, and agreed with the recommendation of providing the additional funding for the project of up to £9,000.

Councillor S Hodges supported the recommendation of providing the funding of up to £9,000.

RESOLVED: That members authorised a new budget expenditure heading ‘Special Projects / Mindfulness Garden’ in the amount of £9,000 from the general reserve.

F10. **GDPR UPDATE**

The Deputy Chief Officer updated members noting that all staff would be attending a re-fresher training course on GDPR and that officers are investigating whether it would be advisable for Councillors to be able to access their Council emails on their personal phones. He stated that all Councillors will be contacted regarding the matter once decision had been made.

RESOLVED: That members received and noted the GDPR update.

F11. **TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

a. **Personnel Committee – 13 June 2022**

Members received the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 13 June 2022 and were requested to give consideration to four recommendations therein.

RESOLVED:

- 1 That a full time Planning Officer is recruited at a cost of £43,610.**
- 2 That the Events and Engagement Manager role be externally job evaluated by One Voice Wales at a cost of £100 and results reported back to the Personnel Committee for implementation.**
- 3 That that the Wellbeing projects officer salary scale is set at SCP 18 – 20, in line with other incremental scales.**
- 4 That the request for BSL Training at a cost of £700 be authorised which can be allocated from the Staff Training Budget.**

F12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the date of the next meeting of Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 19 July 2022.

Meeting closed at 19:50pm.

Signed(Chairperson) Dated