**Crewe Town Council**

**Finance and Governance Committee**

1 Chantry Court

Forge Street

Crewe

CW1 2DL



**Minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2019**

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| ***18/4/01*** | Present |
|  | Cllrs B Minshall, John Rhodes, Jill Rhodes, and Straine-Francis.  In attendance: Steve McQuade (Town Clerk) |
| ***18/4/02*** | To receive apologies for absence |
|  | Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Houston, Lundie, P Minshall, D Yates and S Yates.  In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Jill Rhodes agreed to chair the meeting. |
| ***18/4/03*** | To note declarations of Members’ interests |
|  | There were no declarations made. |
| ***18/4/04*** | To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting (Finance and Governance Committee) held on 11th December 2018 |
|  | The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record. |
| ***18/4/05*** | Public Participation A period not exceeding 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments |
|  | Mr Moore asked a question about how the Council Tax is collected and the level of precept. This was answered by the Clerk. |
| ***18/5/06*** | To review the year to date expenditure for the Committee and for Council as a whole, to review and consider debts to the Council and to review the levels of ear marked reserves– See agenda notes, income & expenditure tables for Council and Committee and debt summary.  Members reviewed and noted the current financial position.  Members reviewed the levels of ear marked reserves and determined to keep matters under review. |
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| ***18/4/07*** | To consider and receive funding in relation to the appointment of two employees to positions fully funded by Cheshire East whose role is to help tackle issues related to ‘Fly tipping and Grot Spots’[[1]](#footnote-1) |
|  | Members noted and welcomed the appointments. |
| ***18/4/08*** | To consider an update in relation to strategic dialogue with Cheshire East.  Cllr B Minshall reported on meetings with portfolio holders at Cheshire East focussed on streetscene and also at a separate meeting with Cllr Jill Rhodes on matters related to the town centre. |
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| ***18/4/09*** | To receive and consider an update in relation to the allotments in Crewe (Town Clerk) |
|  | The Clerk reported that the matter relating to ownership had been completed and that the ownership dispute with Cheshire East is concluded.  The Clerk also reported that fencing work at Manor Way and Ford Lane had been installed. Further works at Walker Street were planned and at Hulme Street (s106 monies).  Members were also updated with regard to potential plans at Ford Lane to utilise adjacent public space. |
| ***18/4/10*** | To receive an update from internal audit (Cllrs Jill Rhodes, P Minshall and Houston) and to consider Cllr John Rhodes being appointed as an internal auditor allowing Cllr P Minshall to stand down. |
|  | Members noted the report from the members of internal audit (22nd January) and ***resolved*** that:   * The relevant changes are made to the procedures on card payments. To initial indicating who placed the order and a little more detail as to the purpose. * That future Mayor’s are encouraged to be as specific as possible on their choice of charities. * Cllr John Rhodes appointed as an internal auditor   Members made a vote of thanks to Cllr P Minshall for her service on internal audit. |
| ***18/4/11*** | To consider an update from the Clerk in relation to compliance with GDPR  Members received an update from the Clerk on progress towards completing the GDPR action plan. Members ***resolved*** that the policies needing to be introduced were submitted to Council for consideration and approval. |
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| ***18/4/12*** | Policy Review – To consider a draft sponsorship policy and authorise the update of the Council’s complaints procedures by the Clerk and Deputy Leader (To be submitted as urgent item to next Council)  Members ***resolved*** that the draft policy be submitted to Council for approval and asked that the Deputy Leader bring forward a draft complaints policy for consideration at the next meeting. A draft policy would be circulated to all members as soon as possible for early informal consideration. |
| ***18/4/13*** | To consider members feedback on the operation of the new committee structure introduced in 2018. |
|  | Members reviewed the working of the new structures and indicated no desire to make any changes at the present time. It was agreed that the new Council should review the matter once it is established. |
| ***18/4/14*** | To consider the disposal of all or some of the items presently held in storage in light of the valuation of those items and the ongoing cost of storage. |
|  | Members noted the progress made and that Cllrs Houston and Rhodes together with Cllr Flude would be visiting the storage location on 7th February to make an assessment. |
| ***18/4/15*** | To consider a report from the Clerk in relation to the management of the John McBride Trust  The Clerk updated members with regard to the management of the Trust and emphasised the distinct roles of members as Councillors and Trustees. |
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| ***18/4/16*** | To receive and consider a report from the Deputy Leader in relation to a complaint  Members ***resolved*** to debate the matter in closed session due the confidential and personal matters to which the complaint related.  Members welcomed the report from the Deputy Leader and having considered it dismissed the complaint[[2]](#footnote-2). |
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| ***18/4/17*** | To consider the date of the next meeting (12th March) |
|  | Members noted the date of the next meeting. |
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**Meeting closed: 20:43**

1. The two posts are fixed contracts linked to the funding stream from Cheshire East. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Cllr Straine-Francis declared a non pecuniary interest by virtue of being known to the complainant. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)