**Crewe Town Council**

**Finance and Governance Committee**

1 Chantry Court

Forge Street

Crewe

CW1 2DL

 

**Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2019**

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| ***18/5/01*** | Present |
|  | Cllrs B Minshall, John Rhodes, Jill Rhodes, Roberts, Straine-Francis, D Yates and S YatesIn attendance: Steve McQuade (Town Clerk) |
| ***18/5/02*** | To receive apologies for absence  |
|  | Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Houston and Lundie. |
| ***18/5/03*** | To note declarations of Members’ interests |
|  | See declaration related to minute 18/5/14. |
| ***18/5/04*** | To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting (Finance and Governance Committee) held on 29th January 2019 |
|  | The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record. |
| ***18/5/05*** | Public ParticipationA period not exceeding 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments[[1]](#footnote-1) |
|  | Mr Lawson, Brookhouse Allotment Association, spoke in support of a request for an upgrade on part of the external fencing.  |
| ***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 – See agenda notes, income & expenditure tables for Council and Committee and debt summary  |
|  | Members reviewed and noted the current financial position.Cllr S Yates asked the Clerk to report back on:* The position on general and earmarked reserves.
* The current top ten suppliers by total spend and the levels of local spend.

The Clerk was asked to facilitate requests for committees to carryover funds related to ongoing projects and to create the requested sinking funds. |
| ***18/5/07*** | To receive an update on external income and benefits in kind  |
|  | Members noted the efforts being made to increase financial and operational capacity through building relations with partners and funders. |
| ***18/5/08*** | To consider an update in relation to strategic dialogue with Cheshire East (Cllr B Minshall) |
|  | Cllr Minshall updated members and noted that there would be a period of quiet whilst elections took place.Members and officers had attended a meeting related to Flytipping in Crewe at Cheshire East to coordinate an approach aimed at cleaning Crewe.Community Development had been discussed by the Leader with Portfolio Holders at Cheshire East in the previous week.A number of written responses are expected to questions raised with Portfolio Holders at Cheshire East. |
| ***18/5/09*** | To receive and consider an update in relation to the allotments in Crewe (Town Clerk) and to consider an update from Cllr John Rhodes with regard to fencing at Brookhouse allotments. |
|  | The Clerk updated members with regard to a legal matter at Manor Way.Cllr Rhodes updated members with regard to a matter at the Brookhouse site and members ***resolved*** that the fencing requested is funded (circa 2k). |
| ***18/5/10*** | To receive an update from internal audit (Cllrs Jill Rhodes, John Rhodes and Houston) |
|  | Members noted the update from the Clerk on the audit session that had been conducted on the 11th March by Cllr Houston. Members noted the increased significance of GDPR due to the new roles being undertaken by the Streetscene Improvement Officers. |
| ***18/5/11*** | Policy Review – To consider[[2]](#footnote-2):* a revision to Standing Orders such that where a quorum is not reached after a delay of fifteen minutes from the advertised time that the meeting is deemed to have been cancelled.
* An update from the Leader in relation to the development of a revised complaints procedure.

Members agreed not to change Standing Orders and to afford an opportunity for the new Council to take a view on the matter.Members considered recent lessons learnt and agreed to review a new complaints procedure after the election. The Leader was asked to use his experience to create a draft for consideration after the election. |
| ***18/5/12*** | To consider a matter raised at Council in relation to the USDAW ‘Save our Shops’ campaign. |
|  | Members ***resolved*** to support the campaign in principle, but also indicated a desire for further information. |
| ***18/5/13*** | 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 (Cllr Houston)Cllr Rhodes updated members following a visit to review the items in storage and members ***resolved*** that the coffee tables (pie crust) and the corner table could be disposed of through charitable outlets. The remaining items to be kept under review and relocated to a suitable and member approved location, if one could be found. |
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| ***18/5/14*** | To consider matters related to a third party contractor. |
|  | Members ***resolved*** to consider matters in confidential session due to the legal issues involved[[3]](#footnote-3).Members were updated on the matter and agreed that as the partner had sought to unilaterally terminate the partnership agreement, Council raised no objection to the termination and therefore considered all matters closed. |
| ***18/5/15*** | To consider the date of the next meeting – To be confirmed |
|  | Members noted that a date would be published on the Annual Council agenda. A vote of thanks was proposed by Cllr John Rhodes to retiring members and especially to both Cllr Yates for their contributions to the Council and the civic life of the town. |
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**Meeting closed: 20:31**

1. Cllr Jill Rhodes joined the meeting at this point. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Cllr Roberts joined the meeting at this point. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Cllr Straine-Francis declared an interest in this item, by virtue of being known to the party concerned. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)