

Minutes of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on **WEDNESDAY 30th OCTOBER 2024** at **6.00pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall, Chapel Terrace, Ferryhill.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Councillor C Bihari (Vice-Chair)
P Atkinson, V Collins, J Donald

Officials: L Owens, Town Clerk
D Shingleton, Accountant

R.21.24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor S Jones, Councillor L Fellows, Councillor C Atkinson, Councillor K Conroy, Councillor J Makepeace and Councillor D Farry.

R.22.25-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

R.23.24-25 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

There were no members dispensations in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

R.24.24-25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present at the meeting however they attended the meeting in an observant capacity only.

R.25.24-25 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & INCOME

Members considered the Statement of Accounts & Income that had been previously circulated.

Councillor P Atkinson asked about the personal alarms on page 1 of the list of purchase ledger payments for September. The Town Clerk advised that these were purchased for the Outside staff who lock the gates following the Lone Working Policy been updated.

Councillor Bihari queried the charge for the meetings to be advertised in the Chapter and queried what time period this relates to. The Town Clerk advised that she believes this is a monthly charge, however she will check this.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Statement of Accounts and Income be accepted.
- b) That the Town Clerk checks the cost of the monthly meetings being advertised in the Chapter.

R.26.24-25 BUDGETARY CONTROL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 AND BUDGET UPDATE

Members considered a report from the Accountant which had previously been circulated.

During the discussions Councillor C Bihari queried fees and charges under the cemetery heading and made reference to the fact that it looks like this budget will not be as much as we had budgeted for even though we increased fees and charges and wondered why this was the case. It was explained that the reason for this is that we appear to have over predicted the income and the level of income received does not reflect our projected forecast.

Councillor C Bihari also made reference to the funding bid we have in currently for a toilet facility at the cemetery and explained that this will have ongoing maintenance implications and wondered if we would factor this into the budgets if this funding bid is successful and the work goes ahead. Mr D Shingleton the Accountant explained that going forward all funding/project applications should include ongoing revenue budget implications. Councillor C Bihari also referred to the potential of the new play park at Dean Bank Park if the funding bid is successful and mentioned that we need to factor in ongoing maintenance. The Town Clerk clarified that the only benefit will be is that the equipment will be new so repairs should be minimal.

Councillor C Bihari also asked about the additional money that is left from the PWLB loan and asked if we are going to return the money. The Town Clerk clarified that the money is going to be used renovate Swann House and permission was sought and approved for this from the Public Works Loan Board.

Mr D Shingleton explained that following this meeting we are looking at scheduling a Budget Review Working Group so we can look at the budget further with the idea of getting this to a level that is acceptable to members.

Councillor C Bihari asked if in the Budget Review meeting will Members receive any updates on how the Service Level Review is progressing. The Town Clerk clarified that she would provide an update at the meeting.

Councillor P Atkinson asked if there is anything we should be aware of to prepare for the budgets further. Mr D Shingleton explained that a part of the problem this year is that at this stage we would normally have received an indication of the tax base and the LCTRS Grant, however this year we have had no indication on what this looks like. It is anticipated that we will

be able to share this information further at the Budget Review Working Group meeting.

RESOLVED

That Members note the financial position of the Council at 30 September 2024, the financial projection for the year and the situation at 31 March 2025.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6:20pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....