

Minutes of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on **WEDNESDAY 18th March 2026** at **6.00pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall, Chapel Terrace, Ferryhill.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Councillor C Bihari (Chair)
A Ferguson, C Johnson, L Fellows (in place of Cllr C Atkinson)

Officials: L Owens, Town Clerk
S Hewitson, Committees & Civic Administrator

R.21-25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received however, Councillors J Lathan and J Quinn were not present.

R.22.25-26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

R.23.25-26 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

R.24.25-26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 2 members of the public present but they had no questions in relation to any agenda items.

R.25.26-26 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & INCOME

Members considered the Statement of Accounts & Income.

Councillor L Fellows queried various payments to PassFM, the Clerk confirmed these were the 5 year electrical checks on all Council buildings and any necessary work.

Councillor L Fellows also queried the cost of solar panel repairs and why these were needed when the solar panels hadn't been installed for long. The Clerk advised that apparently the solar panels hadn't been connected properly and she would be going back to the Company regarding this matter. Members agreed that the Clerk should look into this with a view to clawing back money for the incorrect installation and should gather historic information from staff on the process of the installation.

Councillor C Bihari queried the payment for supply & delivery of the Christmas Tree and asked which budget this is taken from, the Clerk confirmed this is allocated to the Christmas decorations budget.

Councillor C Johnson queried the payment for Japanese knotweed treatment, the Clerk confirmed this was a 5 year contract that was

previously agreed to treat the Japanese knotweed at Storehouse Allotment Site. Councillor Ferguson asked if an update on the progress could be provided by the Works Manager.

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts & Income be received, the Clerk look into the issues with the solar panels and the Works Manager provide a progress update on the treatment of knotweed at Storehouse Allotments.

R.26.26-26 BUDGETARY CONTROL TO 28 FEBRUARY 2026 AND BUDGET UPDATE

Members considered a report which was previously circulated.

The Town Clerk presented the report and members were invited to ask questions:

Councillor C Bihari asked if the title of the EMR – PWLB Loan could be changed to EMR – Swann House, as the PWLB has now been settled and as previously agreed this will now be used on Swann House. Members agreed.

In relation to the General Reserves, Councillor L Fellows suggested that rather than rebuilding this all at once, this be done gradually for instance the projected underspend of £13,910 be transferred this year and going forward any underspend can also be transferred which will gradually build the General Reserves to the recommended minimum. Members agreed.

It was also suggested by Councillor L Fellows and agreed by Members that to tidy up the Reserves table any amounts left over such as the £54 from the Miners Lamp Project and any other amounts be moved back to general reserves.

The Town Clerk and Finance Manager were thanked for their work on the budgets.

RESOLVED

That

- i) Member note the financial position of the Council at 28 February 2026, the financial projection for the year and the situation at 31 March 2026.
- ii) The Clerk amend the Reserves table to read EMR – Swann House instead of EMR – PWLB Loan
- iii) The projected underspend of £13,910 be transferred into general reserves.
- iv) The leftover amounts from the various headings in the reserves table be moved back into general reserves to tidy the table up

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.30pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....