



FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Meeting 4

Attended by: Cllrs P Eakin (Chair), L Sumner (Vice Chair), D Critchley, J Critchley, H Hayes, P Lowrie, J Moorcroft & J O'Donoghue (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

NOTED: There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

To note any declarations of interest

NOTED: There were no declarations of interest.

3. Requests from the public to speak

Members of the public are invited to speak on items which are on the agenda.

NOTED: No member of the public attended the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October 2023

To accept and sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to accept and sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Frodsham Town Council accounts

(a) To note that the income in November 2023 was £2,815.00.

NOTED

(b) To note that the expenditure in November 2023 was £35,435.71 which included a donation of £15,000 to Frodsham Youth Association.

NOTED

(c) To note that the sum of all accounts as at 30 November 2023 was £250,601.

NOTED

(d) To approve the monthly income and expenditure report (report provided).

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to approve and sign the monthly income and expenditure report.

(e) To note the bank reconciliation checks as at 30th November 2023 were checked to bank statements by Cllr Wade (min ref: FTC/27/10/2023/10g) on 12th December 2023.

NOTED

(f) To appoint a councillor to carry out the bank reconciliation checks as at 31st December 2023.

RESOLVED: Cllr Moorcroft was appointed to carry out the bank reconciliation checks as at 31st December 2023 on a date to be agreed.

6. Internal Audit Report

- (a) To note the internal audit report received from JDH Business Services (report provided).

NOTED

- (b) To note the response to the report.

NOTED: The response was noted together with details of actions already carried out.

7. Frodsham Festival of Walks

To consider the request for an increase of 150% in the budget for the 2024 Festival of Walks from £2,000 to £5,000 (deferred from the Events Committee Meeting held on 5th December 2023) together with budget report provided by the organising group (report provided).

RESOLVED: It was agreed not to increase the budget for the 2024 Festival of Walks for the following reasons: the group has received a grant of £5,000 from the Marshes Benefit Fund; Frodsham Town Council did not consider it appropriate to use public funds to subsidise the cost of celebrity guests or free gifts to attendees; some of the walks do not take place in Frodsham so do not benefit the local economy; the need to balance the overall council budget to maintain a 0% increase in precept.

8. Promoting Frodsham

- (a) To note the report provided by Cllr Hayes to approve a request to support a grant bid to install permanent fixtures to lamp posts on Main Street to enable banners to be erected advertising events taking place in Frodsham.

NOTED: The report was noted.

- (b) To agree action to be taken.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to support the grant bid. Cllr Hayes to inform the community group making the grant bid.

9. Budget 2024-2025

- (a) To note the revised proposed budget provided by the Clerk.

NOTED: The proposed budget was noted together with the information that all Committees have met to both consider and reconsider their budget requests. The process started in October 2023 with a view to making a final decision at the meeting to be held on 8th January 2023.

- (b) To consider the 2024-2025 budget for recommendation to full council at the FTC Budget Meeting to be held on 8th January 2024.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to recommend the budget for approval with an additional sum (to be agreed) for Promoting Frodsham and an increase of £2,500 for the Grants Scheme. It was also resolved to put £5,000 into EMR for Frodsham Orchards, £20,000 into EMR for replacement play equipment and £5,000 for Accessible Play Equipment.

10. Over 70s Christmas Voucher Scheme

To note that 1,044 applications have been sent to 836 addresses.

NOTED:

11. 7-year Garden Tenancy Agreements

- (a) To note that the tenancy agreements are due to be issued by 1st January 2024 to 10 properties adjacent to London Road Playing Field.

NOTED

- (b) To approve any amendments to the tenancy agreements.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to remove clause 3, bullet point 3 from the tenancy agreement.

12. Freedom of the Town

To consider the revised policy and procedure (report provided).

RESOLVED: The policy was approved with the sum of money allocated to the scheme agreed at £500 (para 7.1) with a new budget code under Discretionary Expenditure.

13. Clerk's report

To receive any additional report.

NOTED: It was noted that the tax base for the precept was received on 18/12/2023. The Band D precept charge for Frodsham Town Council in 2023/24 was £93.71. If FTC want this charge to be the same in 2024/25, FTC will need to request a maximum precept of £350,091.

14. Date of next meetings

- (a) To note the Budget Setting Meeting will take place on Monday 8th January and that this is a full council meeting.

NOTED

- (b) To note that the next Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting will take place on 26th January 2024.

NOTED

The meeting closed at 19:32.