

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL OFFICES 44 OLD STREET ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2019 AT 7.30PM

Present: Committee Chairman Cllr G. Hill
 Cllrs N. Barton (7.40pm), B. Cherokoff, C. Francis-Pester, L. Little, J. Middleton, T. Morgan, G. Watkins, J. West.
 Ms Paula Heath Town Clerk,
 Invited – Chief Inspector L. Pook Avon & Somerset Police, Mrs Jo Mercer, North Somerset Council

Public Session

Chief Inspector Leanne Pook had been invited to attend the meeting following the announcement of the closure of the Police front desk at Castlewood. The Chief Inspector explained that she had not been party to the decision which had been a central office decision. There had been very little usage at Castlewood and the lack of expertise in the Castlewood staff meant that reports and information taken had to be checked and often redone costing considerable time and resources. Over the last few years the way people contact the police has changed with much more being done on line and by phone. There will still be a front desk at Nailsea, and once issues had been resolved, at Weston Town Hall. The officers will still be based at Castlewood and there will still be the direct line to the control room in the reception area of Castlewood to report any issues and if required an officer can attend.

Members questioned the officer commenting on the increase cost to the residents via the Council Tax but with a perceived drop in the service. The Chief Inspector explained that the number of officers would not be reduced, and they would continue to be a visible presence in the Town. With new technology officers can respond to questions wherever they are, even if enjoying a coffee, they are approachable. Members welcomed the use of electric bikes as opposed to cars; this apparently is a new policy for officers to either walk, bike, or use public transport where appropriate. The response of the Control Room and the perceived lack of interest in some crimes, which although can be devastating for the victims, does not appear to rank high in police response. The Officer explained that there is a priority system operated based on the risk factor to the victim i.e. an intruder still on site or immediate vicinity will rate higher than a crime reported later. Members expressed concern at the way central office and governments were not responding to the needs of the community for visible policing and for removing the ability for communities to deal with the lack of discipline being shown by some elements of society. The changes in legislation has meant that officers have different criteria to work to in respect of arrest, and with detention suites now being more centrally located across the authority, each arrest involves more resources. Members felt that it would be appropriate for Police Commissioner Sue Mountstevens to attend a future Council Meeting, Chief Inspector Pook also offered to attend a regular meeting with the Council.

Formal Business 8.20pm

FGP 19/877 RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors L. Fone, J. Norton-Sealey, O'Brien.

FGP 19/878 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda at this point.

FGP 19/879 RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Finance & General Policy Committee meeting held on 2nd January 2018 and ratified by Council on 13th February 2018 were accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

PART 1**FGP 19/880 RECEIVE DETAILS FROM CLEVEDON FLOWER SHOW CONCERNING REQUEST FOR FUNDING.**

A copy of the letter of request had been circulated with the agenda. Members discussed at length the request, the lack of financial detail on the letter and the future event in 2019. Members were supportive of the event, which attracts visitors to the town, and run by a small body of volunteers.

Proposed seconded and **RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL** that a grant of £2500 is made to Clevedon Flower Show for their 150th Celebrations towards the cost of a marquee, from 2019/2020 reserves, subject to full accounts being provided prior to discussions and decision at the Council meeting which will ratify these minutes.

PART 2**FGP 19/881 RECEIVE THE FGP COMMITTEE BUDGET/ACTUAL SPREADSHEET 2018/19**

Members noted the accounts sheets that had been circulated with the agenda; there were no questions

FGP 19/881.1 receive ALCA subscription at £2043.36

Proposed Seconded and **AGREED** the payment of the ALCA subscription for 2019/2020.

FGP 19/881.2 receive update on Bin-it outstanding invoices.

The Town Clerk as RFO explained that there were 3 invoices outstanding to be paid to Bin-It. The company appears to have ceased trading. The Company have been requested to provide credit notes for the weeks when they didn't delivery the contracted service. The 3 Invoices will be included as creditors at the year end pending the credit notes.

FGP 19/882 DISCUSS INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CHIEF INSPECTOR LEANNE POOK CONCERNING CLEVEDON POLICE FRONT DESK

Members thanked Chief Inspector Pook from attending and welcomed her suggestion for a regular meeting. Members agreed that the police officers would be welcome to use the office during office hours should they need an area to work.

Proposed seconded and **AGREED** to write to the Home Secretary to express concern at the central office decision to close the front desk at Castlewood and urge that the decision is reconsidered to install a part time front desk within the Town Centre. Members believe that the move to Castlewood had been detrimental to the service and its usage.

FGP 19/883 RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL MEETING WITH HEALTHMATIC 29TH JANUARY

It was agreed to defer this to the end of the meeting along with the contract discussion, appreciating that this part was not covered by section 1 .2 Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.

FGP 19/884 RECEIVE UPDATE ON LAND TO REAR OF BROOKFIELD WALK [FGP 19/870] 7 [FC 19/1019]

Members were informed of the response from NSC Chief Executive Jo Walker, members discussed the content of the email which explained that the District Council were looking and assessing several sites across the District in respect of provision of a school. Member were told by NSC councillor that the school was for Special Educational Needs. Members queried the suitability of the site, should it be chosen, also the need. Proposed, seconded and **AGREED** to write to NSC Chief Executive to express concern and seek assurances that no decision will be taken without a full and detailed consultation with the Town Council at an early stage and before any decision is taken in respect of any land within the Town Council's boundary.

Proposed, seconded and **AGREED** that the Council will write to those residents who attended the Council meeting in October 2018 with details of the Chief Executives response.

FGP 19/885 RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE BROWN SIGN AND RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CLEVEDON CCT

Proposed, seconded and **AGREED** to accept the recommendation that the Highways Authority authorisation to install a Brown Sign should be retained but the project deferred pending a financially viable scheme. It was **AGREED** to request the return of the funds held by the Highways Agency £2500 for the Town Council and £2500 for Clevedon BID.

FGP 19/886 DISCUSS THE ATTENDANCE OF THE TOWN CLERK AT THE LEADERSHIP IN ACTION CONFERENCE ON 5TH/6TH JUNE.

Proposed, seconded and **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should attend the 2-day conference 'Leadership in Action' on 5th/6th June 2019 at a cost of £370.00 plus vat.as part of the Continuous Professional Development and networking.

The following item may be heard under section 1.2 Public Bodies (admission to meeting) act 1960 due to the contractual information contained in the notes.

FGP 19/887 RECEIVE NOTES OF THE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE CONTRACT FOR THE PUBLIC TOILETS 11TH MARCH 2019

Members discussed the minutes along with the notes to the meeting held on 29th January [min no. FGP 19/883]. Members NOTED the notes from the January 29th Meeting The minutes of the future contract meeting held on 11th March 2018 were accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

*Proposed, seconded and **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to **FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE** by **5 votes to 0**: That Clevedon Town Council rolls over the current public toilet contract for a further 7 years with no increase in usage cost of 20p, this would be reviewed annually*

RATIFIED by 9 votes to 0

FGP 19/888 RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE STAFFING MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2019

Proposed, seconded and **AGREED by 7 votes to 1** to accept the minutes of the Staffing Committee as a true record and to accept all recommendations contained within the minutes.

FGP 19/889 CHAIRMAN ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

With the Permission of the Chairman and Committee an urgent item was raised and discussed as the response deadline set by NSC was Monday 25th March 2019, the email and phone call concerning the item was received by the office on the 20th March 2019; a copy of the agenda had been circulated to all members.

North Somerset council had received funding under the Cleaner High Streets Initiative and proposed a sum of £1538 to the Town Council if a proposal is received by the 25th March. Proposed, seconded and **AGREED** to propose splitting the funding between the volunteer organisations that do much to clear, clean and improve the ambiance of the two high street areas in Clevedon; Clevedon Gardeners and Clevedon Pride

FGP 19/890 DETERMINE PART I AND PART II ITEMS.

Agenda item 7 funding for Clevedon Flower Show would be a part 1 item, as it is over £1000, not in the budget and additional information requested.

Meeting closed at 9.31

CHAIRMANDATE