

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2024 AT 6.30PM**

PRESENT Councillor Andrew Croft (Mayor)
Councillor Kelham Cooke (Chairman)
Councillor Robin Morrison (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Bret Allibone
Councillor Barry Devereux
Councillor Habib Rahman
Councillor Jonathan Waples (Substituting for Councillor Ed Fancourt)
Councillor Amanda Wheeler
Councillor Max Sawyer (Substituting for Councillor Jo Winterbourne) arrived 18.40

ALSO PRESENT Acting Town Clerk, Sarah Dorson
1 member of public online

803. Public Participation (Agenda Point 1): Art Pop-up – The committee received information regarding the services provided by Art Pop-Up at the Pavilion and emphasised the importance of maintaining this venue as a community hub. This building serves as a space where many youths from the PE9 1 district can access and engage with the group's services. Trials at other venues have shown a significant decrease in attendance. The committee was urged to consider this when assessing the future utilisation of the building.

804. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Point 2):

Councillor Ed Fancourt, Councillor Shaun Ford, and Councillor Jo Winterbourne had submitted their apologies, which were noted.

Proposal 1 – It was proposed by Councillor Amanda Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Barry Devereux and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the apologies were accepted.

805. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Point 3)

None made.

806. FINANCE:

- a. The committee conducted a review of the End of Year Accounts, acknowledging the overspending in Finance misc. attributed to unforeseen expenses related to works on the acquired assets, along with other areas. Additionally, they affirmed the committed Projects for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Proposal 2 – It was proposed by Councillor Kelham Cooke seconded by Councillor Habib Rahman and unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the End of Year Accounts and the Committed Projects for 2024-25

- b. The committee reviewed Schedule No. 12b and were advised schedule 1 will be presented at full council.

Proposal 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Robin Morrison seconded by Councillor Amanda Wheeler and unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept Schedule No. 12b

- c. The committee received an update on the 2024 Legal fees from the council's solicitor.

- d. The committee received notification regarding the contribution from LCC for maintaining grass verges in the fiscal year 2024-25. The total amount allocated for this purpose was stated to be

£8593.83. This contribution specifically covers the funding for three safety cuts, which otherwise would be undertaken by LCC.

- e. Cllr Devereux provided an update on the possibility of implementing a skip-based waste collection scheme to aid residents who are unable to visit the tip. It was affirmed that this initiative would be postponed while discussions continue with LCC to reinstate the service.

- f. Requests for Free Hires

- i. French Twinning Civic Reception

Proposal 4 – It was proposed by Councillor Andrew Croft seconded by Councillor Amanda Wheeler and unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept for the current Mayor to gift one of the Mayors allocations of the Courtroom to the Stamford Twinning.

Proposal 5 – It was proposed by Councillor Andrew Croft seconded by Councillor Kelham Cooke and unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept all Mayors allocations of the Courtroom will not include a charge for the use of the kitchen, for mayoral events and gifted uses of the Courtroom.

- ii. Art popup

Proposal 6 – It was proposed by Councillor Kelham Cooke seconded by Councillor Amanda Wheeler and unanimously **RESOLVED** To approve the complimentary use of the Pavilion for the affected session, due to its unfit condition.

807. GRANT APPLICATIONS:

Proposal 7– It was proposed by Councillor Kelham Cooke seconded by Councillor Amanda Wheeler and unanimously **RESOLVED** To approve to defer the grant request to full council.

808. ASSETS:

- a. It was reported that work is needed on the Pavilion to improve its condition. Discussions regarding the request for a leased café were deferred to a closed session due to the confidential nature of the business.
- b. The committee confirmed the outstanding works required for the assets, including clearing vegetation at the Bastion for a condition survey, addressing the septic tank at Uffington Road Cricket grounds, damp treatment and decoration for the Gents toilets due to a leak, addressing damp in the front offices and Mayor's Parlour, ensuring access to upper and basement floors for RLS Toilets, closing all other entrance points, repainting the Defib Phone box, and addressing ownership of the notice board on Station Road.

809. TO RESOLVE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS SENSITIVE AND CONFIDENTIAL PERSONNEL MATTERS

It was proposed by Councillor Kelham Cooke seconded by Councillor Amanda Wheeler and unanimously **RESOLVED** The Council move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

The meeting continued in the absence of press and public. Not for publication by virtue of Section 100(a) para. 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the items being of a confidential nature)

8.10pm – The meeting continued in Closed Session

Minutes arising from confidential item:

Pavilion

It was proposed by Councillor Amanda Wheeler seconded by Councillor Jonathan Waples and unanimously **RESOLVED** the council undertakes the repairs required, with an application made to the Mick George fund. Furthermore, the Communications & Engagement Officer undertakes community engagement on how the resident would like to see the building used.

Confirmation of working arrangements for staff

Staffing arrangements

It was proposed by Councillor Kelham Cooke seconded by Councillor Amanda Wheeler and approved by majority and **RESOLVED** the council recruit a Facilities & Allotment Officer

Committee Terms of Reference

It was proposed by Councillor Kelham Cooke seconded by Councillor Jonathan Waples and approved by majority and **RESOLVED** the council the Terms of Reference documents are circulated to full council.

9.16pm – Meeting resumed in Open Session.

810. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – TBC

Chairman - Meeting Closed at 9.17pm