

**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING HELD AT 6.30 PM ON
3RD AUGUST 2020**

PRESENT:

Cllr A Whelan
Cllr S Austen

Cllr E Carlsson Brown
Cllr C Whelan

Cllr I Lindsay

NOT PRESENT:

Cllr M Downey

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD ON THE 8TH JUNE 2020) & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 8th June 2020, were agreed and were taken as signed by the Chairman, as a true record. Pages PFG 79 and 80 refer.

The Clerk confirmed she was still drafting the new policy for the provision of IT to councillors and was still awaiting a copy of the Cambridgeshire County Council's Policy for this.

4. TO APPROVE THE NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMITTEE

Members noted and approved the new Terms of Reference for the Committee, drafted by the Clerk.

5. TO CONSIDER AND NOTE UPDATED REPORT DETAILING FINANCIAL LOSSES TO THE COUNCIL DURING THE PERIOD OF LOCKDOWN IN RELATION TO COVID-19

Members noted the updated report detailing the financial losses to the Council during the period of lockdown in relation to Covid-19, produced by the Clerk. As there are still no funds being allocated to Councils at this level, these losses have to be borne by the Council. This will mean there will be a substantial impact on the Council's finances. It was unanimously agreed the Mayor would write to ECDC to express how Covid-19 was impacting on the Council and that we had an approximate current loss of £110,000. She would also write to the local MP and higher authorities highlighting the need for financial relief to be made available to Parish Councils. The Clerk will continue to update the report on a regular basis.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget updated, dated the 31st July 2020. As discussed in item 4, income is still considerably less than would have been received over the same period as last year

7. UPDATE ON THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Clerk informed members the first training session for the CiLCA qualification with CAPALC, will be in September.

8. UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

Nothing to report as the Working Group had not met.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
14th September 2020

9. UPDATE REGARDING THE COUNCIL’S STRATEGIC PLAN

Nothing to report as the Working Group had not met. Cllr A Whelan will arrange a date for the next meeting shortly.

10. TO CONSIDER THE REVISED EMPLOYER’S DISCRETIONS POLICY STATEMENT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

Members noted the comments from LGSS Pensions regarding the Council’s current scheme and the suggestion that it should consider having more flexible wording within the Policy. It was agreed to amend some of the wording to read ‘would not normally consider, however each case will be looked at on its own merits or if there are exceptional circumstances’. The Clerk will amend the wording and circulate to members of the Committee for approval. This will then be recommended for approval at the next Full Council meeting.

11. YOUTH STRATEGY WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Cllr C Whelan informed members the Working Group had not met. Information from ECDC and CCC was still awaited from the recent Youth Strategy survey they had carried out. This information needs to be received so this Council knows what they have planned, before it can move forward. A meeting of the Working Group will be arranged shortly.

12. CIL WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Cllr Austen informed members the Working Group is meeting on the 4th August to discuss the petition for a Splashpad in Ely. The Clerk had provided an updated CIL expenditure and income report, which was noted.

13. COMMUNICATIONS/PR

Members noted the notes of the Communications/PR Working Group meeting held on the 28th July. Cllr Downey would draft the content for the next Elyi edition with regards to the Council’s support of the BLM movement. Cllr Rouse will also provide content regarding the virtual Mayor Making on the 13th July.

14. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There were no health and safety issues to report.

15. PERSONNEL ISSUES

There were no personnel issues to be discussed.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk informed members of the discussions she was currently having regarding the possibility of either Sessions House or the Maltings being used as a Nightingale Court. Members felt the Clerk should ring Peterborough Cathedral to see if they could offer any advice on these negotiations, as they had just been successful with this.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 14th September 2020 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting was closed at 7.45 pm.

Due to enforced social distancing caused by the Coronavirus, this meeting took place by video communication, accessed by the Zoom meetings facility.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
14th September 2020