

**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
14TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

PRESENT:

Cllr A Whelan
Cllr S Austen

Cllr E Carlsson Brown
Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr C Whelan
Cllr C Phillips

NOT PRESENT:

Cllr M Downey

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Whelan and Cllr C Whelan declared a personal interest in item 5 on the grants list, as they were involved with this organisation. Cllr Carlsson Browne took the chair whilst this application was being discussed.

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

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 3rd August 2020, were agreed and were taken as signed by the Chairman, as a true record. Pages PFG 81 and 82 refer.

4. 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 is still a substantial impact on the Council's finances, with an approximate, current loss of £146,668. The Clerk will continue to update the report on a regular basis.

5. BUDGET UPDATE

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

6. UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

Cllr C Whelan informed members that she had given an update at the last Full Council meeting, a week ago. The Group had meet to discuss the consultation on the Member Code of Conduct. Members had supported the changes to this Code. Cllr C Whelan would be issuing further clarification as to the roles of Chairman and Lead Member of Committees, as there still seemed to be some confusion with regard to this. A further meeting will be arranged in October/November to review how the new Committees are working.

7. UPDATE REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Cllr A Whelan reported that the Working Group had met on the 11th September. The draft Strategic Plan was discussed and amendments were being made to this. The Plan will then be circulated to all councillors for their comments.

8. TO CONSIDER GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2020/21

Members considered the grant applications for phase 1 of the grant scheme for 2020/21. Recommendations of proposed grants to the next Full Council are attached to these minutes. As the grants had been split into two phases for this financial year, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the second phase will be considered at the Committee meeting on the 1st March 2020. Organisations will be encouraged to submit applications for funding one of projects or to support unexpected costs related to the pandemic. They would not encourage applications that were purely for supporting the organisation's running costs.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

26th October 2020

9. UPDATE FROM CIL WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Cllr Austen informed members the Working Group had not met. Members discussed the remit of this Working Group and it was agreed that this needed clarifying. The Committee will look at the Terms of Reference of the CIL Working Group to ensure members understood the remit of the Group and how the process will work with regards to possible CIL funded projects.

10. YOUTH STRATEGY WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Cllr C Whelan informed members the Working Group would be meeting on the 15th September. However, the information from ECDC and CCC was still awaited from the recent Youth Strategy survey that had been carried out.

11. COMMUNICATIONS/PR

The Communications/PR Working Group had not met. The Clerk informed members that Cllr Downey had not produced the article for Elyi on the Council supporting the Black Lives Matter motion, so this had not been included in the Council’s article in the last edition. Members were disappointed this had not been undertaken, but would ensure that it would be included in the next edition in October. Cllr A Whelan agreed to draft this.

12. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There were no health and safety issues to report.

13. PERSONNEL ISSUES

The Clerk presented a report with regard to the recent vacancies at Oliver Cromwell House. Members fully supported this and agreed to the recommendations within this.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 26th October 2020 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.45 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
26th October 2020