

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**



FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Friday 8th November 2019 Council Chambers
49, High Street, Polegate 10.00am

Present: Cllrs D Murray, D Watts, D Dunbar, M Falkner, Mrs M Piper, D Sanders , S Shing, M Cunningham **(8)**

Not Present: - Cllrs Ms. A Snell **(1)**

No members of the public present

Minute Number	Resolution
12811	Opportunity for Public Comment None
12812	Apologies for absence Cllrs Ms. A Snell
12813	Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda Cllr D Watts Wealden District Councillor; Cllrs Mrs. M Piper & D Murray as directors of Polegate War memorial recreation ground CIC; Cllr D Murray as trustee of Wannock Village Hall. Dispensation for all Cllrs attending discussing the budgets.
12814	Minutes of Finance & Policy committee meeting of 18th October 2019 <u>It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Finance & Policy meetings of 18th October 2019 as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Murray, D Watts, D Dunbar, M Falkner, Mrs. M Piper, D Sanders , S Shing, M Cunningham</u>
12815	Accounts for payment as presented <u>It was resolved to accept the accounts for payment as presented to the value of £8306.17 VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Murray, D Watts, D Dunbar, M Falkner, Mrs M Piper, D Sanders , S Shing, M Cunningham</u>
12816	Urgent spend under delegated – notice to committee a) Compulsory purchase negotiations with Highways England and the Valuation Office Councillors noted the urgency of the item and the chair of finance explained the situation with regards to receiver of the sums. It was agreed that this should be delegated to the clerk. The committee noted the expected costs for the solicitors was around £2500 +VAT and that the cost for the surveyor/valuer was not yet determined but these were all based on the standard sums according to their emails so far. Councillors discussed the issues with access and the water supply and possible fencing as being part of the negotiations. <u>It was resolved to delegate to the clerk in liaison with the Chair of finance for the spend from general reserves, which was expected to be recovered in due course. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Murray, D Watts, D Dunbar, M Falkner, Mrs M Piper, D Sanders , S Shing, M Cunningham</u>
12817	Policy review

	a) Addition of the high street office location to the current CCTV policy <u>It was resolved to accept the amendments to the policy. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Murray, D Watts, D Dunbar, M Falkner, Mrs M Piper, D Sanders , S Shing, M Cunningham</u>
12818	Grant request – New Year’s Day service, Cuckmere Community Bus £300 The committee agreed that this was a worthwhile service and asked the clerk to invite them to either submit a further application for £200 or submit a new one before the end of the financial year. <u>It was resolved to approve the grant request for the New Year’s Day service, Cuckmere Community Bus for £300 and to delegate to the clerk to approve a further £200 should an additional request be received. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Murray, D Watts, D Dunbar, M Falkner, Mrs M Piper, D Sanders , S Shing, M Cunningham</u>
12819	Budget 2020/21 first draft The budgets had been circulated to councilors prior to the meeting. Some had been submitted from Planning committee and personnel committee. Discussion on the budgets, future provisions and not allowing a 0% as that would be a reduction in some service should that happen. It was agreed that these provisional figures would move forward to the discussions in December when the tax base was known and the official decision on the finance settlement was known. Councillors understood that the majority of the figures agreed with the emerging business plan requirements, although some figures for longer term projects were not yet in. Councillors were also aware there were a few draft ideas to enable a moderate but acceptable increase. Councillors also discussed that the percentages were not a good reflection of any increases as the precept was relatively low. Councilors noted that Wealden District council were no longer providing any council tax support grant this year and the budget would be based on precept only and no government grants. A councilor voiced concern over development of County and District services and stated that the council would need to be mindful to have some form of provision for these in the future and to keep general reserves at the higher level of the acceptable audit levels. It was discussed that the projected increase would be less than £5 per year on a band D household and less for lower tax bands. A discussion on minimum wage levels took place and how this affected the majority of the council’s contracts. Paper costs were discussed and some councilors asked if the clerk could remind councillors they could receive their papers in electronic form. Councillor also commented about the climate change and how this could work for the town council and its budgets.

The meeting closed at 10.57 am

Signed by _____ Chair of Finance & Policy

Dated _____