

MINUTES of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE meeting held at Felixstowe Town Hall on Wednesday 27 July 2016 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr G Newman (Chairman) Cllr D Savage
Cllr S Bird (Vice-Chairman) Cllr A Smith
Cllr N Barber Cllr S Wiles
Cllr S Gallant Cllr K Williams
Cllr Jan Garfield

OFFICERS: Mr A Tadjrishi (Town Clerk)
Mrs D Frost (Finance Administration Officer)

138. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from **Cllr M Deacon**

139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Member(s)	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Cllr S Bird Cllr M Deacon Cllr S Gallant Cllr D Savage Cllr A Smith	All	Local Non-Pecuniary (as Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council)
Cllr G Newman Cllr N Barber	All	Local Non-Pecuniary (as a Members of Suffolk County Council)

140. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were none.

141. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 25 May 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

142. BUDGET MONITORING TO 30 JUNE 2016

Committee received the budget monitoring report to 30 June 2016.

A list of those items of expenditure exceeding budget estimates for the period by 10% or £500 was considered. Members discussed various elements of income and expenditure.

It was **RESOLVED** that the budget monitoring report to 30 June 2016 be noted with no other action required at this time.

143. COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

Committee noted that Council's 1 year Investment Bond of £200,000 with Nationwide Building Society had matured in April 2016, receiving interest of £2,393.42. In accordance with the Council's Investment Policy and Strategy, a new Business Fixed Rate Saver had been taken out at a rate of 1.2% for 1 further year maturing on 2 June 2017. £197,606.58 had been transferred from the Council's Tracker Account in to this bond, making a total investment of £400,000.

It was RESOLVED that that the investment of £400,000 in a 1 year Business Fixed Rate Saver with Nationwide Building Society be approved.

144. BANK CHARGES

Committee noted that Barclays Bank had introduced bank charges which would come in to effect from 13 August 2016.

It RESOLVED that:

- i. the introduction of bank charges be noted with no other action required at this time; and,**
- ii. the Clerk provide Committee with a report on bank charges and a projection of the likely cost to Council subsequent to the charging regime coming in to force.**

145. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT: Q1 2016-17

Committee considered the Internal Audit report for the quarter ending 30 June 2016 and noted that there were no recommended actions recorded.

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Report for the quarter ending 30 June 2016 be received and a vote of thanks be recorded to the staff for their work.

146. CONSULTATION DEVOLUTION

Members considered the report regarding the public consultation for the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Deal proposal launched on Friday 8 July and which would until 23 August. Members felt that the consultation questionnaire that had been issued was directed more towards members of the public than suitable for a Town Council to complete. Following a debate, Committee agreed that it was not in a position to endorse or reject the devolution proposals.

It was RESOLVED that the following statement be recorded at this time:

Felixstowe Town Council is not in a position to endorse or reject the proposals but recognises that there may be opportunities for the region through increased local decision-making.

The Town Council supports the principle of devolution – and indeed double-devolution, however, no recognition for any role for third-tier councils is given or mentioned in any of the proposal documents.

Accordingly, Felixstowe Town Council requests that town and parish councils are engaged with during the next phase of the process, specifically to discuss the role they may play.

147. OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTING

Committee considered the feasibility of introducing a schedule of reports to Council from Members serving on outside bodies. It was agreed that Members should be supported to provide at least one report per four-year term on outside bodies to which they may be appointed on behalf of Council. Although it was not deemed practical to impose a schedule, Members should be invited to indicate at which point during the four-year cycle they would wish to present a report; noting that a report following an AGM or other significant event would be preferable but a general report providing information on the activities of an outside body would also be highly beneficial.

It was RESOLVED that Council be recommended to approve the principle of Members appointed to Outside Bodies reporting to Council at least once per four-year term. A schedule of Council meeting dates to be circulated by the Town Clerk in order that Members may select which meeting they would report to during their four year term.

148. BUSINESS PLAN

Committee noted the results of the Business Plan Consultation. Although the number of responses was disappointing, the remarks received had been very helpful, and as such the Business Plan had been amended to address the comments received.

The Clerk advised that the Action Plan, which would form Appendix 1, had been drafted and would be circulated before the next Council Meeting.

It was RESOLVED that, subject to agreed amendments being incorporated, the finalised Business Plan 2016-2020 be recommended to Council for formal approval and adopted.

149. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 9.04pm. The next meeting was noted as being scheduled for 28 September 2016 at 7.30pm.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____