

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL
ON THURSDAY 25TH JULY 2024 AT 7.00PM

Councillors: M Benyon in the Chair

R J L Boase	T Grattan-Kane
F N E Boase	M P Andrew

Officers: Miss P J Lavelle – Town Clerk

Councillor R Williams was also present at the meeting.

84. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor Kenchington.

84a. Absent

Councillor Willey was absent for the meeting.

85. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Andrew, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 24th May 2024 be approved, subject to the above amendments, and signed as a true record.

Voting: For – 8, Against – 0, Abstain – 1

86. Budget Monitoring Report

Members considered the Budget Monitoring Statement to 30th June 2024. It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by the Mayor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Budget Monitoring Statement be accepted.

87. Policies Reviewed by the Policy Review Working Party

i) Members and Officers Expenses Policy

It was agreed that a contents page should be included for ease of reference.

Item 4 - Officer Motor Car Allowances and Usage – ‘Road fund licence’ be amended to be ‘vehicle excise duty’.

It was proposed by Councillor Andrew, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and

RESOLVED – that the Members and Officers Expenses Policy be accepted subject to the above amendments.

ii) Officer Member Protocol

It was agreed that a contents page should be included for all policies for ease of reference.

It was agreed that 4.3 be split into two paragraphs with the second paragraph commencing 'Any issues arising between a Member and the Town Clerk ...'.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Andrew, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Officer Member Protocol be accepted subject to the above amendments.

iii) Pesticide & Herbicide Policy

It was agreed that 8.2 be amended to add '... on the Council website'.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Pesticide & Herbicide Policy be accepted subject to the above amendment.

iv) Press Policy

Item 4. B) i) – Removal of spacing error within 'make'.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Andrew, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Press Policy be accepted subject to the above amendment.

v) Publication Scheme

It was agreed that section 3 be converted to third person.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Publication Scheme be adopted subject to the above amendment.

88. Report of the Projects Officer

Members considered the report of the Projects Officer (circulated prior to the meeting). Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council proceed with improvements to the Bulwark Play Area and apply for Section 106 funding towards the works.

It was further proposed by Councillor Grattan-Kane, seconded by the Chair, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that due to the tight timescales for use of the funding the Chair and Vice-Chair be given delegated authority to accept the quotation for the works.

89. Flora Day Market

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk regarding the Flora Day Market (circulated prior to the meeting).

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Andrew, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Council approved the application of the Council’s plastic free policy for the event with respect to the traders who had been in non-compliance with the policy.

It was further proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the market not be held on the Porthleven Road removing the need for a road closure on that road.

It was agreed that Cornwall Council be made aware of this decision and the need to make arrangements when letting the Fairground Car Park for the duration of the event. It was further agreed that Cornwall Council’s response be discussed at the November Committee meeting.

It was then proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by the Chair, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Council would not provide an electricity supply for Coinagehall Street stalls and would no longer prevent the use of individual generators in Coinagehall Street providing they were turned off at key moments.

Members then suggested potential layout modifications, at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor R J L Boase, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Council did not support the creation of a food hub and deferred further consideration of the location until the November Committee meeting to allow the impact of the suggestions to be assessed.

90. Report of the Town Clerk**i) Keep Helston Tidy Litter Picks**

This item was noted.

ii) Banking Update

On the proposition of the Chair, seconded by Councillor Andrew, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council open a Co-operative Bank current and savings account and continue to monitor Nationwide for when applications re-open.

iii) Excess furniture at the Guildhall

On the proposition of the Chair, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk be authorised to dispose of the damaged chairs.

iv) Saturday Indoor Market

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Saturday Indoor Market be paused until 1st April 2025.

91. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by the Mayor, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

92. Confidential Report of the Town Clerk

i) Energy Audit

It was proposed by Councillor Grattan-Kane, seconded by Councillor Andrew, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Community Energy Plus be appointed to carry out an energy audit.

ii) Independent Internal Auditor

On the proposition of the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that this item be deferred to the September Committee meeting.

iii) Asbestos Treatment Works

On the proposition of Councillor Grattan-Kane, seconded by the Chair, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that Allium Environmental be appointed to carry out the required encapsulation works and air test.

Meeting closed at 8.31pm

Confirmed

Chair