

Penistone Town Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held remotely on
Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr Barraclough in the Chair, Town Mayor Cllr A Millner, Deputy Mayor Cllr G. Millner and Councillors Cutts, Rusby, and Unsworth.

Also present

Non committee members: Cllrs Bradbury and Perkins.

T. Ball – Town Clerk

A. Hart – Finance Officer

No members of the press were present.

There were no public present therefore no public participation session took place.

2020/29 1. TO NOTE ANY APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Hinchcliff and Cllr Kimberley with reasons for absence approved.

Cllr Wood sent in his apologies to the Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons for absence be accepted and recorded.

2020/30 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS

In accordance with Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2011, the Chair invited declarations of interest.

It was **NOTED** and **RECORDED** by the meeting that there were no declarations of interest.

2020/31 3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT) 1960

As there were no members of the public or press in attendance no requirements were made under this agenda item.

Signed byChair Cllr Barraclough 25th January 2021

2020/32 4. TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2021/2022.

A number of budget scenarios had been circulated prior to the meeting to the Committee.

The Clerk reported that she had removed items from the budget that had been advised by the Committee. She advised the Committee that to ensure the balance of reserves is kept sufficient to aid cash flow for trading that there would need to be a substantial precept increase. She reported that trading income could not be guaranteed due to the uncertainty of the current economic climate.

Cllr Bradbury and Cllr Perkins noted that full trading may not fully occur until September 2021.

Cllr A. Millner proposed that the option D budget be adopted and recommended to Full Council at the Precept meeting with a proposed 10% precept increase.

Moved by Cllr A. Millner and Seconded by Cllr Unsworth and **RESOLVED** that budget D be recommended to full council at the precept meeting with a 10% precept increase.

2020/33 5. TO CONSIDER THE ESTIMATES FROM FIRST IMPRESSIONS FOR 2021.

The Clerk reported that the estimate for the planters and hanging baskets had been received for the 2021/22 period. She noted that as part of the budgetary planning meetings this expenditure item had been removed from the budget for the year 2021/22.

Cllr Unsworth recommended that the Council are to not allow for the planters and hanging baskets and to research alternatives.

Cllr Rusby advised to research in reducing the capacity of what is currently supplied.

Cllr Perkins advised the Committee to be cautious due to unconfirmed income and to research alternatives.

Cllr A. Millner suggested that Twiggs Landscaping be contacted as a first point of contact to establish whether they would be interested in a joint project between Penistone Town Council and the local community in creating a flower display within the planters in the Penistone Town Council area.

Moved by Cllr Cutts and Seconded by Cllr A. Millner and it was **RESOLVED** that the planters are to remain and the Clerk is to contact Twiggs Landscaping to establish communications in the matter.

A vote was taken and it was **UNANIMOUS**.

Signed byChair Cllr Barraclough 25th January 2021

The Clerk was requested to contact First Impressions and advise them that Penistone Town Council will not be using their services for this financial year due to reductions in budgets.

Moved by Cllr Barraclough and Seconded by Cllr Cutts and **RESOLVED** that the estimate from First Impressions is not renewed for 2021/22.

2020/34 6. TO CONSIDER THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF COMMITTEES.

Cllr Barraclough reported to the committee that a management structure of the committees would assist with the running of a large Town Council and that any detailed queries in matters relating to the Committee be directed through the Chair of Committee in conjunction with the Clerk.

Cllr Unsworth noted that all Councillors should have the opportunity to discuss matters with the Clerk directly.

Cllr Rusby noted that Councillors should be given the opportunity to approach Officers.

The Clerk reported to the Committee that Councillors will still be able to contact the Clerk directly with any queries and that the structure is to also assist with communications within the Council and also to ensure that large queries are not duplicated. She advised that she is currently working with the Chairs of Committees on a regular basis and also when matters arise.

Cllr G. Millner reported that it is important that all members know the full information that is discussed at Committees and this structure will help to assist with this knowledge.

Cllr A. Millner reported that utilising the Chairs of Committees will assist with streamlining of queries and reduce staff time dealing with these matters.

Moved by Cllr Barraclough and Seconded by Cllr Cutts it was **RESOLVED** that the Finance and General Purposes Committee will operate for a trial period with the Chair of Committee to act as point of contact for detailed queries in conjunction with the Clerk and to feedback those queries to Committee.

2020/35 7. TO CONFIRM THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING.

To be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 20.06

Signed byChair Cllr Barraclough 25th January 2021