



WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023 at 6.45pm
at the Ellendune Community Centre, Barrett Way

Present	Cllr J Hewer (Chair) Cllr L Campisano Cllr L Gough Cllr N Hooper Cllr D Edwards (not on committee)
Clerk	Oliver Armstrong (Deputy Clerk)
Public	0
FGP/81	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies received from Cllr B Streeton, Cllr G Overbury, Cllr H Dosanjh and Cllr H Woodward
FGP/82	<u>Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation</u> There were no declarations of interest or applications for dispensations.
FGP/83	<u>Public Questions</u> There were no members of the public in attendance.
FGP/84	<u>Minutes</u> Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the F&GP meeting on 16 January 2023.
FGP/85	<u>Payment Schedule</u> Members RESOLVED to approve the Payment Schedule for February 2023, a signed copy of which appears as appendix A in the minute book.
FGP/86	<u>Bank Reconciliation</u> Members NOTED the bank statements and reconciliations for 31 January 2023, a signed copy of which appears as appendix B in the minute book.
FGP/87	<u>Income & Expenditure</u> Members NOTED the Income & Expenditure report for 31 January 2023, a copy of which appears as appendix C in the minute book.
FGP/88	<u>Internal Auditor Report</u> Members NOTED the report of the internal auditor, a copy of which appears as appendix D in the minute book.
FGP/89	<u>Energy Prices 2023/2024</u> The Deputy Clerk explained the energy contract for the Maunsell Way and Weir Field pavilions was out of contract in March 2023 and a new provider or a decision to remain with the same provider must be agreed.

The Deputy Clerk explained there was going to be an increase in costs if remaining with the same provider, Scottish Power. The direct renewal costs increased the annual projected expenditure by approximately 80% on the previous year.

The Deputy Clerk explained he had contacted an energy broker, Utility Bidder, to see if the rates could be improved. The rates could be improved significantly and the contract would be able to remain with Scottish Power. Members agreed the least expensive option should be pursued if the contract terms were satisfactory.

Members **RESOVLED** to delegate the decision for renewal to the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Chair.

FGP/90

Broadband Contract

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on broadband solutions for the office. The Parish Office was experiencing internet connectivity difficulties due to the inadequate domestic broadband, which resulted in slow speeds and disruption to efficient working conditions.

The Deputy Clerk had been in conversation with a commercial data and telecommunications company, Horizon, to see how the issues could be resolved. The result of the conversation was the most effective way to provide high speed broadband into the entire Ellendune Community Centre was to install a leased line direct from the exchange.

The proposal to service the entire building was agreed in principal by the landlord, Ellendune Hall Trust (EHT). The EHT representative has been in conversation with the Deputy Clerk regarding funding for the initial install.

Members **DELEGATED** the negotiations on shared costs with Ellendune Hall Trust to the Deputy Clerk and Chair.

The proposal from Horizon is attached as appendix E in the minute book.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve proposal SA1602223ECC from Horizon at an upfront cost of £4781, cost to be met from general reserves.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve proposal SA160222ECC from Horizon at a monthly cost of £446, cost to be met from budget code 4115/100.

FGP/91

Exclusion of Press and Public

To resolve in accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw'.

Reason: Staffing and Contractual Matters

Cllr D Edwards left the meeting at 7:10pm

FGP/92

Wroughton Community Library Staffing Update

Members **NOTED** a report of the Clerk regarding the staffing arrangements for the Wroughton Community Library from 01 April 2023. A copy of which can be found in the confidential minute book as appendix F.

FGP/93

Recruitment Process

Members **DELEGATED** to Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair the completion of the terms of a new part time fixed term contract for staffing the Wroughton Library from 01 April 2023.

Meeting closed at 7:21pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Council