



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING** of **OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Meeting Room, 8 Broad Street, Ottery St Mary EX11 1BZ on **THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2023 at 4.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillors Stewart (**Chair and Deputy Mayor**), Grainger (**Mayor**), Green, Aherne (from 4.15pm), Kerry Kennell, Clerk and Cllr Faithfull (EDDC & Town Councillor but not a member of the Finance Committee)

F23/12/01

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lucas and Derek Kemp from DCK Accounting Services Ltd

F23/12/02

TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FOR NEW DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIS) DISPENSATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Stewart	Item 7 – Cllr Stewart declared a personal interest as a Library user and his child attends Ottery St Mary Primary School.
Cllr Grainger	Item 7 – Cllr Grainger declared a personal interest as a customer of Able2Achieve and a Library user.
Cllr Green	No interests declared.
Cllr Aherne	Item 7 – Cllr Aherne declared a personal interest as a Library user.

Cllr Faithfull declared that he is the TC representative of Ottery St Mary Library.

F23/12/03

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED): TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

It was **RESOLVED** that Agenda Item 7: Consideration of community grant requests from Able2achieve; Friends of Ottery Library; Ottery St Mary Library; Ottery St Mary Primary School PTFA; Ottery St Mary joint Guide and Scout committee for Pixie Day will be discussed in confidential session.

F23/12/04

TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

Cllr Grainger was nominated by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Green. It was **RESOLVED** Cllr Grainger is the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

F23/12/05

TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 16TH OCTOBER 2023 (minute refs F23/10/01 - F23/10/11)

Chair`s Initials.....

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 16th October 2023 (minute refs F23/10/01 - F23/10/09) were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting by the Chair.

Cllr Aherne joined the meeting.

F23/12/06

TO CONSIDER: -

a. A DRAFT BUDGET AND

The budget was discussed. It was noted that the Council has previously published a 3-year budget.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that £79,000 of reserves are used and to increase the precept to enable the Council to continue with their work on youth services, developing the skatepark, regeneration of the town and maintenance of their extensive property portfolio. Due to additional houses built since last year this would be an increase of 9.3% (£8.24 per house). A rolling capital fund was discussed. It was noted that due to a family emergency the accountant had been unable to attend the Finance Committee Meeting and that the recommendation is subject to a meeting being held with DCK Accounting prior to the next Full Council meeting.

b. TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE EARMARKED RESERVES AND THE COUNCIL'S CURRENT POLICY DOCUMENT RELATING THERETO

These were noted.

c. TO RECOMMEND A PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the precept for 2024-25 is £282,510 subject to a discussion being held with the Council's accountant.

Under s.1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the council resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

F23/12/07

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY GRANT REQUESTS FROM ABLE2ACHIEVE; FRIENDS OF OTTERY LIBRARY; OTTERY ST MARY LIBRARY; OTTERY ST MARY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA; OTTERY ST MARY JOINT GUIDE AND SCOUT COMMITTEE – PIXIE DAY

Organisation	Amount requested	Recommendation
Pixie Day	£300	It was RECOMMENDED that the grant application is approved. The Committee are disappointed that EDDC are charging for use of the Land of Canaan. It was RECOMMENDED that subject to agreement from Richard Coley the Council contact EDDC to state that this is a long-established community event and request that the fee is waived.
Able2Achieve	£2,278	It was AGREED that a meeting is arranged with Able2Achieve to discuss their application in more detail.

Chair's Initials.....

Friends of Ottery Library	£200	It was AGREED that a meeting is arranged with FOOL to discuss their application in more detail.
Ottery St Mary Library	£120	It was RECOMMENDED that the grant application is approved. This is a modest grant application and if further support is required the Council would advise the Library to contact them.
Ottery St Mary Primary School PTFA	£2,000	It was RECOMMENDED that the grant application is approved.

A grant application has also been received from Ottery St Mary Football Club. It was AGREED to arrange a meeting with the Football Club to discuss their grant application. The Clerk will check whether S106 funds could be used for their application.

It was AGREED that a Teams meeting will be arranged on Tuesday 2nd January from 4pm with grant applicants.

The Confidential Session ended.

F23/12/08

TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS RELATING TO FINANCE

It was noted that the Food and Families Festival and OSM Twinning Association have returned their grants to the Council.

The Meeting ended at 5.46pm

SIGNATURE OF CHAIR	
DATE OF SIGNATURE	

Chair`s Initials.....