

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL**FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES**

MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held at 8.15pm on Wednesday 12 June 2019 in the Council Offices, Crafton Green House, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex.

PRESENT Cllr J O'Brien (Chairman), Cllrs M Jessup, A Khan, A Miti, F Richards and G Sell

ATTENDING Mrs Ruth Clifford - Clerk
2 members of the public
1 member of the press

86 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Caton

87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

88 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2019 were approved.

It was agreed that when sending out the agenda for a meeting, the office would also send the minutes of the previous meeting.

89 MATTERS ARISING - none.

90 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr O'Brien's report was read to the meeting. A working group to look at energy in the Council's Offices and Day Centre was established comprising Cllrs O'Brien, Jessup, Miti and Richards. If anyone knew anyone outside the Council with experience in this field, they could pass their names to Cllr O'Brien.

91 PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION - none required until the next Full Council meeting.

92 TO CONSIDER THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

The report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. No material matters had arisen and the Chairman extended his congratulations to the Clerk on keeping the Council's finances in order. The list of recommendations was considered. Items R3, R7 and R8 have all been addressed or are in hand. The remaining items would be considered over the course of the next weeks/months. Item R5 will be considered firstly by the Personnel sub-committee.

93 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Whilst not an official recommendation in his report, the Internal Auditor had commented to the Clerk that the Council's investment strategy would benefit from a review. A draft of an approved model document, tailored to this Council, had been circulated for consideration prior to the meeting. After brief discussion, Cllr O'Brien proposed the following

RECOMMENDATION that the Parish Council adopt the draft Investment Strategy.

Seconded by Cllr Sell and unanimously agreed.

- 94 LIGHTING:** **A) OUTAGE REPORT** - none to report
 B) GENERAL

The Clerk informed members that a resident in Brewery Lane had enquired about the possible re-location of a lighting column to enable their driveway to be widened. The Clerk asked the Council's contractor to provide an estimate of the likely costs involved as, if the committee agreed, the resident would need to bear the costs. An update will be given at the next meeting. Cllr O'Brien's inspection of columns is on-going.

95 STAFF MATTERS

Personnel working group meeting takes place on 25 June.

96 DAY CENTRE

Discussions with UDC should resume now that the new administration is in place. Hopefully there will be an update for the next meeting.

97 WINDMILL

The Clerk has now been advised by UDC, who in turn have been advised by Historic England, that the planning application should be withdrawn and a Scheduled Ancient Monument application submitted instead.

98 YOUTH CENTRE

A revised date for a meeting with the County's representative is awaited, as is the Business Plan from Gemini Youth Services. Following the fire at the Lower Street premises, the Youth Club have been told that they can start to hold their sessions again there soon. In the interim, Linda Barnes has been meeting youngsters around the village, at the skatepark, Mountfitchet Green etc.

Meeting closed 8.45 pm