



Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting Thursday 28th November 2024

Present: Councillors R Carroll; C Andrews (online); J Bissex(online); H Llewellyn (online)

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Clerk.

Meeting Chair: Councillors C Andrews and R Carroll (Deputy Mayor)

The chair advised of late arrival. The clerk sought agreement from a Member to chair the meeting until Councillor Carroll arrives. Councillor Andrews took the chair. (remotely)The Chair thanked Members, and closed the meeting at 12:40pm

1. To receive Apologies for Absence.
The clerk reported apologies from Cllr Collins (health); and Cllr BissexFoster (college).
2. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.
No declarations made.
3. Press and Public Participation Session.
No enquiries received by the clerk.
4. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the last Meeting 24th October 2024.
Councillor Bissex moved, Councillor Andrews seconded. The committee resolved to approve the minutes. Councillor Andrews to sign the minutes.
5. To review and approve bank reconciliation of 31st October 2024 and payment list to date.
Members reviewed the bank reconciliation and payments list on screen with each payment being clarified by the clerk. Members RESOLVED to approve both the bank reconciliation and the payments list noting expenditure approved of £11,813.31. Debit card authorised for use to purchase £500 food for Rhymney Valley Foodbank.
Councillor Carroll joined the meeting and took the chair from item 6 onwards.
6. To receive a verbal update from the Clerk on:
 - 6.1 Banking administration – the clerk confirmed adding Cllr Davies to online banking at one bank but not yet completed the second bank; of a reduction in interest being notified by Lloyds on the 95 day account; of notice being given to transfer £25,000 from the 95 day account which will reach the instant access account 2nd March 2025; and that current interest rates suggest Unity Trust 30 day notice account should be opened with a rate of 2.96% currently being offered.
 - 6.2 Fidelity Guarantee Insurance – the clerk confirmed the increase to £205,000 and additional premium of £46.26.
 - 6.3 Members photographs (resolution required confirming photographer) – Members instructed the clerk to make arrangements with E Briton asking her to attend town hall to take the photographs. Expenditure of £100 authorised.
 - 6.4 Premises – the clerk reported on a recent meeting with officers from the police and crime commissioners office where the extension on the town council lease was approved. There will be no charges for the first six months of year one, and the rates for rent and the formula for variable costs of utilities are being maintained. A refurbishment and repairs were also approved. Members noted there will be an underspend of approximately £2,500 on the premises budget which they will reallocate. The committee thanked the mayor and deputy mayor for working with the clerk to secure the extension to the lease with Gwent Police.
7. To consider a grant application from St Gwladys Church Hall.
The committee reviewed the grant application on screen and discussed the provision of the Christmas party for families who have experienced domestic violence. Members resolved to provide 50 selection packs from Meeting Minutes

festive supplies, and they RESOLVED to approve match funding of £250 provided the remaining costs are able to be covered by the church hall to enable the party to go ahead. The clerk was instructed to obtain confirmation from the church hall prior to releasing funds.

8. To review the grants and donations budgets and consider financial support for community venues delivering essential support services to residents.

The committee reviewed the budgets on screen via the Scribe system noting the virement requirement from the grants budget to support recent charitable donations. Members instructed the clerk to carry out an additional virement of funds from the premises budget to the donations budget. The committee RESOLVED to make a donation of £500 to the four key voluntary organisation premises in the community to support with the winter fuel costs. Members spoke about the increased pressure on voluntary organisations in meeting these high costs through the winter and the importance of having services delivered in the community. The four key venues of St Gwladys Church Hall; Gilfach YMCA; Cartref Community Hall; Gilfach Bargoed Community Centre will each receive a restricted donation of £500 to be used for winter fuel bills. The clerk was instructed to advise each management committee of the need to provide evidence to the town council in the Spring of 2025.

Councillor Andrews apologised and left the meeting at this point.

9. To conduct a review of the Environmental Policy.

The draft policy was scrutinised and approved for re-adoption by town council with immediate effect.

10. To consider a request from Urdd Cymru Fund for All for financial support – Members discussed the proposal noting difficulty in confirming local people would benefit in the instance of town council providing financial support. The committee RESOLVED to not give a donation at this time.

11. To receive confirmation of responses to the local planning authority in respect of planning applications:
24/0824/FULL ~Erect single dwelling house Bedwellty Road Aberbargoed – no comments or objections raised.
24/803/FULL demolish garages and erect one larger garage Rear of Britannia Terrace – no comments or objections raised.
24/0793/FULL Installation of EV charging bays Pengam Road Aberbargoed – town council advised the local planning authority that while they could find no material considerations upon which to make an objections, several representations have been received from local residents and local businesses, and members would recommend the local planning authority considers neighbours views in regards to this application.

This concluded business of the agenda and the chair closed the meeting at 11.40am