

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Resources Committee held at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 29 March 2022 in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Mallon (Chairman)
Councillors: Ahmed, Colegrave, Dalton, Garrett, Hussain, Kilsby, Phillips, Richards, Strangwood.

Alternate Members: Cllr Ahmed for Cllr Powell.

Officers: Mark Recchia (Town Clerk)
Mark Hassall (Deputy Town Clerk/RFO)
Paul Almond (Operations Manager)
Martyn Surfleet (Executive Officer)

R.57/21 Apologies for Absence
Councillor Powell

R.58/21 Declarations of Interest
None

R.59/21 Minutes of the last Meeting
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 01 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

R.60/21 Income & Expenditure Report
The Committee considered a report prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk/RFO comparing year-to-date income and expenditure with the projected annual budget for the financial year. The report showed all expenditure incurred up to 14 March 2022.

General Services variances were principally

- Cleansing contract costs for Litter Control which fell payable in March 22.
- Salaries and grounds maintenance costs impacted by vacancies and the remaining costs for the year across Cemeteries, Parks and Football pitches. Purchase of BBQ units and wood chipper were completed. Arboriculture works were currently being completed ahead of bird nesting season (4500/110). Lower spend expenditure against Playground maintenance (4501/110) was to be earmarked to protect capacity to continue refurbishment required across the estate, along with computer software for monitoring estate services (4070/110).
- Horton View bowling green costs to repair sprinkler heads would be incurred in Q4.
- Increased expenditure on cleaning across the estate was offset by grant income from the Controlling Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) received into the Resources committee within other income (£110k).
- Timing of capital expenditure invoices for Hill view play area refurbishment to be completed in 2022 (£117k). Works had commenced on the café build in People's Park, projected to last 33 weeks. Officers are in the process of appointing an agent to engage with potential operators of the future facility.
- Advertising on Bus Shelters was being funded by a grant received from COMF.

The Resources Committee is further asked to approve the creation of Earmarked Reserves for

- Computer Software (Estate management) £28k
- Installation of BBQ units and picnic benches & sanitizers £20k
- Play equipment repair/replace, up to £109k
- Computer software for Sports & Hall facilities bookings £6k
- Christmas Lights/Projection up to £16k
- Crime prevention support costs £16k

Members raised a number of questions on the income and expenditure figures which were responded to by the RFO.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive and note the Income and Expenditure report.

R.61/21 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (As Amended)

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk, following the annual consideration given to the level of Members' Allowances by the Parish Remuneration Panel appointed by the District Council.

The Committee had previously resolved that the Town Council should not adopt a Members Allowance Scheme under the Local Authorities (Members Allowance) (England) Regulations 2003 (Minute R.7/03 refers) but it had accepted that travelling and subsistence allowances as set out in the Parish Remuneration Panel's reports should be paid for approved duties outside the town of Banbury (Minute R.53/03).

Members were advised that the Panel had recommended no change to the level of travel and subsistence allowances for 2022/23.

It was RESOLVED that the travelling and subsistence allowances as recommended by the Parish Remuneration Panel (Appendix 1) be adopted as recommended and introduced with effect from the beginning of the current financial year.

R.62/21 Levelling Up The UK White Paper

The Committee considered a report prepared by the Executive Officer. The report summarised the UK Governments white paper report on the Levelling Up the UK Strategy and also summarised NALC's initial response to said paper.

Members raised a number of questions on the Levelling Up the UK White Paper Report, which were responded to by the Executive Officer.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive and note the Levelling Up The UK White Paper Report (Appendix 2).

The meeting ended at 6.50pm

