

The New Town Hall, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG

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**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Finance and Governance Committee

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 7.00pm

**PLACE:** Council Chamber, The New Town Hall, Commercial Road, Weymouth,

Dorset, DT4 8NG

**Present:**

**Councillors** David Gray (Chair)Colin Huckle (Vice Chair)Ryan Hope

Ken WhatleyGraham LambertDavid Harris

Howard LeggRichard NickinsonPeter Dickenson Michael Frost

**Apologies:** Kate Wheller Lucy Hamilton

**Officers:** Ian Milne (Deputy Town Clerk)

Charmaine Denny (Assistant Town Clerk)

Freya Stewkesbury (Democratic Services Officer)

Lisa Musleh (Business Manager)

Will Holmes (Resort Manager)

Jacob Drew (Contracts and Procurement Officer)

**Members of the public and press:** There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

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| F0321 | **Welcome by the Chair**  Cllr Gray welcomed those in attendance as well as those following the meeting live via YouTube. |
| F0322 | **Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Frost  Apologies were unanimously approved from Cllr Kate Wheller and Cllr Lucy Hamilton. |
| F0323 | **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr Hope declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 in relation to The Nest application. |
| F0324 | **Minutes of the last meeting**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Nickinson Seconder: Cllr Dickenson  Members voted with a majority of nine in favour, with one abstention, to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 21st December 2022 and 9th November 2022. |
| F0325 | **Councillors Questions and Statements**  Cllr Hope informed members that Cllr Kevin Brookes will be driving to Ukraine, on behalf of the Weymouth and Portland Lions Club, to deliver much needed supplies to the country. |
| F0326 | **Public Questions**  There were 7 members of the public present and no public questions. |
| F0327 | **Amendments to Grant Policy**  Ian Milne introduced the report.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Nickinson Seconder: Cllr Whatley  Members voted unanimously to approve the policy amendments in the report for immediate adoption. |
| F0328 | **Grant Applications**  Ian Milne introduced the item.  **Weymouth East Scout Group:**  A representative from the group gave a statement in support of the application. Members were informed that they have been given a quote of £3999 for a new kitchen and have received a donation from the Sutton Poyntz Street Fayre of £300.  Members commented that the rest of the funding should be achieved through fundraising activities by the group.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Nickinson Seconder: Cllr Dickenson  Members voted with a minority of two in favour, with 8 against, to allocate £3600 to the Weymouth East Scout Group. Therefore, the amendment fell.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Legg  Members voted unanimously to allocate £3000 to the Weymouth East Scout Group.  **Nothe Fort:**  It was requested that Weymouth Town Council’s Youth Council be involved in the project.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Frost  Members voted unanimously to allocate £800 to The Nothe.  **The Nest:**  A representative of The Nest spoke in support of the grant application.    **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Members voted unanimously to allocate £3000 to The Nest.  **Weymouth Area Development Trust CIC Ltd:**  A representative of the Community Interest Company (CIC) spoke in support of their application. It was clarified that the building is leased from a private landlord and that negotiations have taken place to reduce the rent.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Gray Seconder: Cllr Huckle  Members voted unanimously on the amendment to the proposal to allocate £5000 to the Weymouth Area Development Trust CIC Ltd for one year.  It was noted that the CIC could apply again next year, pending securement of funds from other sources.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Harris  Members voted unanimously to allocate £5000 to the Weymouth Area Development Trust CIC Ltd for one year.  Cllr Hope left the meeting. |
| F0329 | **Quarter 3 Finance Report**  Ian Milne introduced the report. There was a discussion around the cost of water bills for the public conveniences, and members were informed there is currently a working group reviewing the Council’s public conveniences and they will be forwarded the suggestion of catching rainwater from the roofs to flush the public toilets.  Cllr Hope re-joined the meeting during the introduction of the item.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Dickenson Seconder: Cllr Nickinson  Members voted unanimously in favour of recommending the Quarter 3 finance report for the period ending 15th February 2023 to Full Council. |
| F0330 | **Risk Management and Internal Controls**  Ian Milne introduced the report. One of the highest risks identified was cyber security and Ian informed members that they can contact the Council’s IT provider for support if they get viruses on their own devices.  Members discussed the risk of cyber security, particularly in relation to Officers working from home and Councillors using personal devices for Council business.  Members request that the Council investigate cost proposals for IT hardware provision for Members, as well as IT security training.  Cllr Gray requested that under item 5 of the corporate strategy risk register that succession planning and development opportunities for Officers is added under actions, as well as for the actions to come to the Committee following a six-monthly review.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Nickinson Seconder: Cllr Legg  Members voted unanimously to recommend the risk register (Appendix B) for approval at Full Council on 15 February 2023. |
| F0331 | **Asset Register**  Ian Milne introduced the report.  It was requested that a calendar be set up for working groups so that Members can be aware when meetings are taking place.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Dickenson Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Members voted unanimously to recommend the asset register (Appendix C) for approval at Full Council on 15 February 2023. |
| F0332 | **Draft Operational Workforce Monitoring Policy**  Will Holmes introduced the report.    **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Whatley  Members voted unanimously to recommend the adoption of the draft Operational Workforce Monitoring Policy to Full Council, with a review after one year. |
| F0333 | **Seafront Cleansing Action Plan**  Will Holmes introduced the report and commented that negotiations are ongoing with Dorset Council regarding the final cost of the contract.  Members were informed that the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group were in support of the proposed action plan and that funding from the group can be made available.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Nickinson Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Members voted unanimously to approve the action plan for implementation in 2023-24. |
| F0334 | **Food Stall at Weymouth Bike and Classic Car Night**  Jacob Drew introduced the report and read out a statement from a tenant.  It was noted that the committee has previously voted against proposals for food stalls near Alexandra Gardens, and Members raised concerns regarding the impact on nearby businesses.  Members requested that the Council trial extending the Prom Café’s operating hours during the peak season and key events.  **Resolved:**  The below proposals fell for lack of a proposer.   1. the committee agrees to the siting of a single, good quality food stall operator at the Weymouth Bike and Classic Car Night event that is hosted near the Jubilee Clock site for a one season trial;      1. the committee agrees the proposed terms and conditions for the food stall as set out in Appendix F;      1. a report on this trial is presented to the committee in autumn 2023. |
| F0335 | **Information Items**   * Seafront cleansing and waste review update * Actions from previous meetings * Forward Plan   Members noted the information items. |
| F0336 | **Exclusion of the press and public**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Frost Seconder: Cllr Nickinson  Members voted with a majority of nine in favour, with one against, to exclude the press and public.  Cllr Frost left the meeting. |
| F0337 | **Confidential Item – Sand Modeller**  Cllr Frost re-joined the meeting during the introduction of the item.  The was a lengthy discussion.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Nickinson  Members voted nine in favour with, one against, on a way forward. |
| F0338 | **Confidential Item – Debtors List**  **Resolved:**  Members noted the list and the Council’s firm and fair policy on outstanding debts. |

Meeting ended at 21:04

N.B The livestream of this meeting can be found on the Weymouth Town Council

YouTube page.