

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at Pinetrees Community Centre, The Circle, Pinehurst, SN2 1QR
on Tuesday 7 September at 7.00pm.

- Present** Cllr Kevin Small (Chair)
Cllr Dave Patey (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mick Lucas
Cllr John Ballman
Cllr Ray Ballman
Cllr Paul Exell
Cllr Steph Exell
Cllr James Yeowell
- Officers** Andrew Briggs (Estates Manager – via zoom)
Aaron Cripps (Libraries Manager)
Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk)
Jodie Smart (Head of Finance & Governance)
- Public** None
- FGP031** **Apologies**
No apologies were received.
- FGP032** **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
Cllr J Ballman declared an interest as Member of HBUF and the RSPB.

Cllrs J Ballman, P Exell and S Exell all declared interests as Trustees of the Central Swindon North Parish Library & Leisure Trust. The Chair reminded Members that they are Trustees appointed by the Parish Council so there is no need to declare an interest.
- FGP033** **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) Committee meetings held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 and Wednesday 21 July 2021 were reviewed and approved as a correct records of the meetings.
- FGP034** **Transaction Logs**
Members noted that the Government Procurement Card (GPC) transaction logs for June and July 2021 had been checked by Cllr P Exell and that there were no anomalies to be raised.
- FGP035** **Budget Report – July 2021**
Members noted the summary income and expenditure against budgets report to July 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

The Chair commented that he would be going through the budget review (Minute ref. FGP042) with the Head of Finance & Governance in detail.

FGP036

Payments Lists

Members noted the payment lists from June and July 2021, copies of which appear as Appendices B and C in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED to approve the payment list from June 2021 totalling £41,894.77.

RESOLVED to approve the payments lists from July 2021 totalling £194,044.92.

FGP037

Ward Allowance Update

Members noted the balances of Ward Allowances at 31 July 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

Action: Head of Finance & Governance to circulate Appendix D to all Members to advise them of their Ward Allowance balance, with a note regarding the approval for £1,000.00 spend from Ward Allowance for bulb planting (Minute ref. FGP038).

FGP038

Ward Allowance Requests

Members considered a request from Cllr D Patey to put £2,000.00 of his ward allowance towards the restoration of the Great Blondinis statue in St Marks Rec.

RESOLVED for £2,000.00 of Cllr D Patey's ward allowance to be put towards the restoration of the Great Blondinis statue in St Marks Rec.

Action: Cllr D Patey to contact his fellow Ward Members to enquire whether they will contribute the remaining £1,100.00 required to complete the Great Blondinis restoration and confirm this at the next FGP Committee meeting.

Cllr Ray Ballman stated that she would like to use some of her Ward Allowance for planting within St Marks Rec. The Chair requested that she work with the Estates Manager to bring costs for the work to the next FGP Committee meeting.

There was some discussion over the seasonal bulb planting. The Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee confirmed that there is £10,000.00 in a budget for bulb planting.

RESOLVED that all Members may use up to £1,000.00 of the Ward Allowance on additional bulb planting within their ward.

FGP039

Ear Marked Reserve Update

Members noted the report of the Head of Finance & Governance regarding the balance of Ear Marked Reserves as at 31 July 2021, a copy of which appears as Appendix E in the Minute Book. The Head of Finance & Governance also reminded Members that there are no other stores of funds and that all funds are accounted for within the Ear Marked Reserves list and general reserves which currently stands at £452,226.00.

FGP040

Grant Request

Members considered a grant request from Grow Baby Swindon for a grant of £362.36, a copy of which appears as Appendix F in the Minute Book.

Action: Head of Finance & Governance to invite representatives from Grow Baby Swindon to the next FGP Committee meeting to provide further information on their project.

- FGP041** **Library Grant Application**
Members considered a grant application from the Central Swindon North Parish Library & Leisure Trust, presented by the Libraries Manager. A copy of which appears as Appendix G in the Minute Book.
RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the grant of £51,407.89 be approved.
- FGP042** **Budget Review**
Members NOTED the budget review to date, presented by the Head of Finance & Governance. A copy of which appears as Appendix H in the Minute Book.
- FGP043** **Debtors**
Members considered the report of the Head of Finance & Governance regarding debtors, a copy of which appears as Appendix I in the Minute Book.
RESOLVED to approve the writing off of up to £4,795.44 for aged community centre debts.
- FGP044** **Public Works Loan – Moredon Sports Hub Consultation**
Members considered the reports of the Clerk regarding the consultation for the Moredon Sports Hub in relation to the public works loan board application, copies of which appear as Appendix J and K in the Minute Book.
RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the Public Works Loan Board application be increased by £50,000.00 to enable the purchase of capital items, subject to being required. That the consultation material be amended to include details of this decision and that this consultation be included within the next newsletter.
- FGP045** **Gorse Hill – Ad Hoc Weekend Cover**
There was no recommendation from the Leisure and Recreation Committee to consider at this meeting.
- FGP046** **The Great Blondinis**
The Leisure and Recreation Committee recommended that Gorse Hill Ward Members request the use of their Ward Allowance for the restoration of the Great Blondinis statue in St Marks Rec.
Cllr Ray Ballman requested that in order to commence the works she would underwrite the remaining £1,100.00 required from her Ward Allowance, on the proviso that fellow Ward Members be invited to contribute first.
RESOLVED that £1,100.00 of Cllr Ray Ballman’s Ward Allowance be used to underwrite the Great Baldini’s restoration works, on the proviso that fellow Ward Members be invited to contribute first. This will be confirmed at the next FGP Committee meeting.
- FGP047** **Agency Staff**
Members considered the report of the Assets Manager regarding agency staff requirements, a copy of which appears as Appendix L in the Minute Book.
RESOLVED to approve the agency staff cover through Storm Recruitment for Saturdays cover between 9am and 12pm (3 hours) and Sundays between 9am and 4pm (7 hours).

Total of 10 hours per week at £138.00 per week. (Budget 4055/100). To be reviewed at by the FGP Committee in three months.

FGP048

NJC Salary Negotiations Update

Members noted the verbal update from the Head of Finance & Governance regarding the current negotiations between the employers and unions for the NJC salary rates for 2021/22.

The Head of Finance & Governance informed Members that the current offer of a 1.75% pay increase is currently out for consultation which is due to end late September early October and that all three Unions had advised their members to reject the offer.

Action: Head of Finance & Governance to report to the next FGP Committee meeting, the financial implications of this pay rise and investigate the option of increasing the furlough claims made earlier in the year to accommodate this.

The meeting closed at 7.41pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council