



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE  
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## MINUTES

Meeting of: **Policy & Resources Committee**

Date: **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Present: Councillors

M.	Lager	(Chairman)
R.	Williams	(Vice Chairman)
P.	Barlow	
J.	Goodman	
T.	Pleasance	
M.	Weeks	
J.	Williams	
J.	Sheehy	(Town Clerk)
N.	Smith	(Deputy Town Clerk)
S.	Smith	(P.A to the Council)

### 19. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Ager who was unwell and Councillor K. Atwill due to travel abroad

**RESOLVED** That the apologies for absence be received and agreed.

### 20. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 21. **INTERESTS**

No interests were received.

### 22. **QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No member of the press or public were present.

**23. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

There was no further report for the Town Clerk to give.

**24. MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

Details of Members' attendance at Meetings were received.

**RESOLVED** That the details be received and noted.

**25. MEMBER'S EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCE REVIEW**

The Member's Expenses and Allowance Review was received.

Members discussed how often the current scheme was utilised and whether there was a benefit to amending the amount allocated.

**RESOLVED** That the Town Clerk approach Braintree District Council to seek further information regarding the Parish Remuneration Panel.

**26. BROADCASTING AND OBSERVATION OF MEETINGS**

Members discussed both the logistics and benefits of broadcasting meetings

**RESOLVED** That a Feasibility and Cost Study be undertaken relating to the broadcasting of Witham Town Council meetings.

**27. CLIMATE AUDIT PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

a) Members discussed the recommendation from the Climate Audit Panel that the Localism & Devolution Steering Group considers the acquisition of the Town park, Maltings Lane Sport Pitches and War Memorial be elevated, priority climate items.

**RESOLVED** That the recommendations be received and noted and that the Climate and Audit Panel are asked to further clarify their recommendation.

b) Members discussed the recommendation from the Climate Audit Panel that the Policy & Resources Committee considers a section on Council's Climate Change priorities as part of any communications review.

**RESOLVED** That the recommendations be received and noted.

**TREASURY AND INVESTMENT REVIEW**

The Treasury and Investment Review was received.

Members debated as to whether security, liquidity or yield was most important to the council and agreed that security and yield were of utmost importance.

**RESOLVED** That funds on deposit with Lloyds in a 32 day notice account are moved to a 95 day notice account and that £150,000 is moved into this account from the Unity Bank Current Account.

**28. LOCAL AUDIT FRAMEWORK UPDATE**

The update from the Committee of Public Accounts was received.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted.

**29. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(a) BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Bank Reconciliations to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 were received.

**RESOLVED** That the Bank Reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 be received, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**(b) SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

The Schedule of Receipts and Payments to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 were received.

**RESOLVED** That the Schedule of Receipts to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 totalling £99,981.63 and; and the Schedule of Payments to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 totalling £208,167.45 be received, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**(c) BUDGET STATEMENTS AND EARMARKED RESERVES**

The Budget Statements to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, and the earmarked reserves were received.

Members discussed the Highways Devolution Grant that was kept in an EMR and the limitations within the scheme.

**RESOLVED** That the Town Clerk makes enquiries with the EALC as to the difficulties other councils are encountering whilst administering the Highways Devolution Scheme.

**RESOLVED** That the Budget Statements to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and the earmarked reserves be received, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and the Town Clerk's report be a vehicle for detailing projections.

**30. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A (Section 3 and 5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**31. CCTV DISPUTE**

A report was received.

**RESOLVED** That the report be received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.16 p.m.

Councillor M. Lager  
Chairman

JS/NS/9.9.2021