

## EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 7 JUNE 2021** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Evesham.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M S Goodge

Vice Chairman: Cllr A P Booth

Councillors: Cllr Mrs S Amor, Cllr G Bearcroft, Cllr A Dyke, Cllr R W Raphael, Cllr Mrs M Sale, Cllr Mrs S Schaathun, Cllr Mrs F S Smith

Officers: Mrs L Steele (Locum Town Clerk)

**1. Election of Chairman**

Upon the proposal of Cllr Booth, seconded by Cllr Dyke, Cllr MS Goodge was elected as Chairman of the Committee.

**2. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Upon the proposal of Cllr Goodge, seconded by Cllr Sale, Cllr AP Booth was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

**3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr P Clifford

**4. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest (if any)**

Cllr Goodge declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 (New Homes Bonus, (NHB) on the grounds that his wife works for one of the organisations wishing to apply for funding from NHB. Cllr Dyke declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same item on the grounds that he is associated with one of the organisations wishing to apply for funding from NHB. Cllr Mrs Smith and Cllr Bearcroft each declared non-pecuniary interests, also in agenda item 8 on the grounds that each of them are members of the Wychavon District Council panel that considers NHB applications.

**5. Minutes of the last meeting including questions as to the progress of any item**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2021 were circulated with the agenda having been previously approved by Full Council. The minutes were noted.

**6. Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the financial year 2020/21 was examined before internal audit and prior to presentation to Full Council on 14 June 2021. There was some discussion of the Annual Governance Statement and it was agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it meets as the Samuel Wallace Smedley Trust at least once a year to receive the Trust's accounts (this was as an alternative to delegating all tasks to the Trust Board).

The AGAR was noted.

**7. Financial Report for Financial Year 2021/22 up to March 2021**

A report detailing payments and receipts for May 2021 together with a bank reconciliation report for the same month were tabled. Member took some time to study the reports and a short debate followed. The Locum Town Clerk agreed that she would obtain and forward to members of the Committee twelve months' worth of electricity bills for the Almonry

Payments and Receipts and the Bank Reconciliation Report for May were noted.

**8. New Homes Bonus**

An oral report on New Homes Bonus was considered. It was agreed that the Locum Town Clerk would pull all the elements together into a written report for Full Council.

**9. Request for a Letter of Support for a Levelling Up Fund application for Evesham**

Members noted that this item was being considered by the Committee because the deadline of 10 June meant that Full Council could not receive the item. It was agreed that the Locum Town Clerk should write a letter in support of Wychavon District Council's bid to the Government's Levelling Up Fund for funding towards the restoration of the Public Hall, improvements to the A46/B4035 roundabout and improvements to Evesham's active travel network.

**10. Matters of Urgency**

The Locum Town Clerk reported that she was minded to exercise her delegated authority to instruct the land drainage consultants previously employed by the Town Council and whose report informed the planning application for the extension of Hampton Cemetery. The Environment Agency has objected to the planning application and professional advice is required to address that objection. The Committee indicated by unanimous vote that it would support this exercise of delegated authority.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

COUNCILLOR M S GOODGE  
CHAIRMAN