

## Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Present: Cllr I Mitchell (Chair), Cllr M Devendran (Mayor), Cllr T Edwards (D Mayor), Cllr R Crook, Cllr A Hagger, Cllr M Verbinnen

Mrs W Bown (RFO)

1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	None	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	None	
3.	<p><b>Dedicated Funding 2023/24: reduction of the General Fund Meetings: New microphone system; IT provision/support; Website provision; Compound; Town gates; Bonnymead refurbishment</b></p> <p>Proposed: the Mayor                      Seconded: Cllr Verbinnen                      Resolved: that 6 months' Precept should be retained as the level of general reserve with the remainder added to the budget for the stated projects.</p>	Clerk
4.	<p><b>To agree to use EMR 321 (History Centre) to pay new/outstanding rates demand</b></p> <p>The Clerk informed councillors that an additional bill for electricity at the History Centre has been received and requested that this be added to the agenda item for consideration.                      Councillors agreed to the amendment.                      Proposed: Cllr Mitchell                      Seconded: the Mayor                      Resolved: to use EMR 321 to pay outstanding rates and electricity bills</p>	Clerk
5.	<p><b>To receive the internal audit report</b></p> <p>The audit report was noted. Thanks were extended to the Clerk.</p>	
6.	<p><b>To agree the auditor's recommendation to request that Wiltshire Councillors pursue the outstanding debt from Wiltshire Council</b></p> <p>Councillors discussed the outstanding debt of £20,000, originally promised to the Town Council for the refurbishment of the public toilets as part of the Recovery Programme following the Novichok incidents.                      Proposed: Cllr Hagger                      Seconded: Cllr Edwards                      Resolved: the Mayor to chase payment as a final drive towards payment of the debt</p>	Mayor
7.	<p><b>To discuss the requirement to consider alternative lawyer provision</b></p> <p>Following discussion councillors agreed to form a working party to consider the criteria for determining the process of appointing a solicitor, based on effectiveness, efficiency and price. The process can also be used for the appointment of other external organisations.</p>	

	Working Party: the Mayor, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Hagger	<b>ACTION</b> Cllrs
8.	<b>To discuss the 2023 application to the Wiltshire Towns Programme</b> Councillors agreed that a new application should be made. Details of the criteria and SWOT analysis for the medium/long term plan are to be considered at the next projects committee meeting.	Clerk
9.	<b>Wiltshire Community Foundation/Wessex Water grant opportunity</b> Councillors considered the possibility of applying for the grant to cover the cost of providing water butts and compost bin at Stockport Avenue allotments. The Clerk is to work on the application without delay.	Clerk
	Meeting closed at 10.35am	

