

KNOWSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

A meeting of Knowsley Town Council's
Finance and General Purposes Committee
was held on Monday 11th March 2024
in the Community Pavilion, Committee Room, Pool Hey, Stockbridge Village,
commencing at 3.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillors: D Baum (Chair), B Donnelly, J Donnelly

Also in Present: Jane Thomas (Clerk of the Council)
George Mackenzie (Consultant)

Apologies

Councillors: M Burk, L O'Keeffe, L Tomlinson,

Absent

Councillors: B Thompson

174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received from members.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** (by members of the committee) that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 5th February 2024 be agreed as true record and signed by the Chair of the Committee.

175. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Members were informed about a Liberal Democrat election leaflet (Focus) advocating for the Village Hall to be transferred from the Borough Council to the Town Council for the benefit of the local community. All Members agreed that this issue had been comprehensively discussed by the Town Council on multiple occasions. They acknowledged that assuming responsibility for the Village Hall would necessitate an increase in the Township precept and thereby significant additional financial hardship for all of the residents in the Township.

176. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

The Clerk provided an update on Gelling Farm's application for 'Asset of Community Value,' submitted on March 1st. Due to the application already being submitted, the Town Council was unable to be added as a partner. Council

members expressed a desire to support Gelling Farm. The Clerk was asked to inquire with Gelling Farm regarding alternative ways the Council can assist them. Additionally, the Clerk informed the Council that bank details are still outstanding, which is delaying the issuance of their donation.

The Clerk informed members Friends of Knowsley Village Recreation & Green Spaces have expressed their interest to collaborate with the Town Council on key projects. Due to the recent commencement of PURDHA discussions will need to be postponed until May. The group has prepared a presentation outlining their past achievements and future goals. the Council members unanimously agreed to extend an invitation to the group to present at a forthcoming Finance and General Purposes meeting scheduled for May.

177. A REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEMS OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROLS

The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) (Section 6) requires smaller authorities, each financial year, to undertake a review of the effectiveness of their systems of internal financial controls and to prepare an annual governance statement in accordance with proper practices in relation to the Town Council's accounts.

Following consideration of a written report submitted by the Clerk of the Council, it was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the review undertaken of the effectiveness of its systems of internal financial controls for the year 2023/2024 to the Town Council.

178. INSURANCE PROVIDER - KNOWSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Member were requested to consider the proposal from the Town Councils current insurance provider Zurich Municipal to renew the Town Council's insurance on the basis of a three-year Long-Term Agreement.

Following consideration, it was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the Town Council that Zurich Municipal be appointed as Knowsley Town Council's insurance provider for the next three year's 2024/27.

NOTE: (The next two items have received SPECIAL RESOLUTION in accordance with Standing Orders 1.17.)

179. SPECIAL RESOLUTION - SPONSORSHIP – KNOWSLEY FLOWER SHOW – AUGUST

Members considered a verbal updated report from the Clerk of the Council outlining new information received from Knowsley Borough Council.

Following discussion, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the sum of £600 sponsorship be awarded to Knowsley Flower Show towards the provision of a free shuttle bus.

180. SPECIAL RESOLUTION – FEES AND CHARGES

Members considered a verbal updated report by the Chair of the Committee on the rising operational costs associated with opening the building on Saturday.

Following discussion, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that to ensure continued service and maintain a sustainable operation, weekend hire will now incur a fee of £20 per hour starting in April 2024.

181 KNOWSLEY TOWN COUNCIL ASSET REGISTER

The Town Council Asset Register should be reviewed on a regular basis and any items that are considered obsolete, beyond economical repair or have been lost, stolen or vandalised should be removed from the register as soon as possible.

The Clerk of the Council presented Members with a written report requesting them to consider the disposal of items that were currently contained within the Asset Register that are now deemed obsolete, beyond economical repair or had been lost.

Following consideration of the report as presented by the Clerk of the Council, it was **RESOLVED** that the items contained within the Town Council Asset Register that are now considered obsolete, beyond economical repair or lost and disposed of be removed from the register and the re-stating of the Town Council’s Asset Register be approved.

182. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – HUMAN RESOURCES SUPPORT

Members considered the Service Level Agreement for Human Resources support from Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council for the financial year 2024/25.

Following discussion, it was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the Service Level Agreement for Human Resources support for the financial Year 2024/25 to the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

Date: 11 March 2024

Signed.....

**Cllr D Baum
Chair of the Committee**