

**MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILTON on TUESDAY 26th February 2019 at 7.00pm**

Present Cllr T Batchelder
Cllr C Blackman
Cllr Edge
Cllr Kinsey
Cllr Seviour

In Attendance Mr S Milton, Town Clerk; Mr H Abel, Minute Secretary

Also Present Cllr Phil Matthews

Composition of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the Mayoral year 2018-2019

Cllr Trevor Batchelder
Cllr Pauline Church
Cllr Paula Johnston

Cllr Charlotte Blackman
Cllr Peter Edge
Cllr Andrew Kinsey
Cllr Ivan Seviour

A G E N D A

Cllr Batchelder in the chair

14.19 Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve reasons give

Cllr Church apologised for her absence owing to a prior engagement
Cllr Johnston apologised for her absence owing to a prior engagement
Resolved: to note.

15.19 Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Batchelder told the meeting that Environment Agency engineers had been inspecting the new weed catcher installation.

16.19 Declarations of Interest

a) To receive **Declarations of Interest** in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers and in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members.
Cllr Edge declared an interest in the payment of his expenses in the finance schedule.
Resolved: to note.

b) To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Town Clerk and not previously considered.

Resolved: To note none received for consideration.

17.19 Finance & General Purposes Committee Minutes

It was noted that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 were approved as a correct record without amendment.

18.19 Commemorating the D Day Landings

Thursday 6th June 2019 will mark the 75th Anniversary of the D Day landing in Normandy.
Cllr Seviour – suggested that the Town Council host a reception in the Council Chamber and, possibly, show a film of the landings. The British Legion could be invited and refreshments provided.

Cllr Matthews – said that Wilton House had been reluctant to be involved this time but he hoped that there might be some connection with the 2019 Armed Forces Day which will, this year, be centred in Salisbury.

Cllr Btatchelder – expressed the opinion that it was too late to organise a large scale event.

19.19 Financial Management

a. To confirm and authorise the payment of a schedule of accounts in the sum of £15,314.67

Resolved: to confirm and authorise said schedule of payments.

b. To note the bank balances and reconciliation figures as at the end of December 2018

Current account £2,598.10 deposit account £141,062.94

Resolved : to note

c. To note the Bank Statement for 31 January 2019

Resolved : to note

20.19 Forward work programme

The Council approved the budget for 2019/20 at its meeting on 5th February. It also approved the delegation of budgets and powers to the Committee and to reduce the frequency of meetings.

Cllr Edge asked about the budget allocation of £7,000 for lighting. If this was the case then the Town Council would not be able to arrange for additional lighting this year as the cost would be £9,000. On examination, it was shown that there had been a £2,000 underspend in 2018 and if this was carried forward to 2019 it would provide the £9,000.

21.19 Service delegations and asset transfers

The Localism Act 2011 introduced the concept of local communities taking more control of assets in their area.

Wiltshire Council is promoting the devolution of appropriate services and transfer of associated assets (by way of freehold or leasehold) to town and parish councils and it has requested that the Council considers whether it wishes to enter into negotiations. Wiltshire Council's service delegation and asset transfer (SDAT) policy is attached to this agenda.

In effect this would see services currently delivered by Wiltshire Council being delivered and funded by the Town Council in the future. It would also see assets and facilities owned by Wiltshire Council transferred to this council. While there are advantages of assets and services being managed at the most local level there are also significant financial and legal implications.

Following correspondence with the Clerk, the following information has been supplied by Wiltshire Council setting out what may be, and what may not be, within the scope of negotiations (this is set out more fully in the appendices attached to Wiltshire Council's SDAT policy).

Asset or service	Wiltshire Council position
Library	Not within scope
Market Place Car Park (already under lease)	WC is not transferring car parks except in cases where the Town Council has a long lease
Public conveniences (already under lease)	This would be included as part of negotiations.
Sheep Field	Unclear if this will be included.
Randalls Croft	This would be included as part of negotiations.
Street cleaning	All Streetscene services delivered by IdVerde may be transferred.
Parking enforcement	This will not be transferred
Refuse collection and recycling	No household waste and recycling will be transferred. Litter bin emptying within the parish and any litter picking would be transferred

Street lighting

Street lighting would not be transferred but amenity lighting would

It was suggested that the Police Station in Russell Street be considered as a possible asset to be transferred. It could be adapted to become a community hub, a men's shed or a youth club. It was agreed to ask Cllr Church formally if this was a possibility. **Action:** Town Clerk

22.19 Wilton Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Seviour reported that the steering group was working on themes and one member was collating input from the discussions. Meetings are being kept short but current thinking suggests that a workshop session may be needed. The next few months will be taken up with planning and consultations will take place this summer.

23.19 To review and note other ongoing matters:

a. Asset transfers and valuation – see 21.19 above

b Public Toilets – the electronic entry system contract has been awarded and it will be installed soon. It was noted that there have been no applicants for the job of cleaner so far. The closing date for applications is 5th March..

c. Market Place – the Council's insurance company has agreed to cover costs. Quotes for repairs are being sought.

d. Town trail markers – the marker installer has to be a Wiltshire Council approved contractor. Idi Verde will be approached for a quote.

It was noted that the toilet signpost is pointing in the wrong direction. **Action:** Town Clerk

e. Speed Indicator Device – the new SID seems to be working well is now due to move to other parishes. The possibility of purchasing additional brackets to fix the SID to each of the five identified sites in Wilton will be explored.

f. Bowls Club extension – the Town Council has agreed to the Bowls Club extension. The map and codicil to the agreement are being formally created. It was agreed that the terms of the lease be examined in order to determine the Town Council's rights and obligations.

g. Harvey & Snowden Lease – a copy of the new lease is with Harvey & Snowden and awaiting approval.

24.19 Correspondence received – The Town Clerk told the meeting that the Town Council was entering its third year with expenditure exceeding £200,000. This means that the council will need to change the way it does its accounts. It also means that new accounting software might need to be purchased and relevant training undertaken.

25.19 To confirm the date and venue of the next meeting – Tuesday 26th March 2019 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

27.19 To close the meeting

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

Members of the Council considered the foregoing matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime and Disorder; health and Safety, and Human Rights.