

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL
PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday 20th February 2024
in the Council Offices commencing at 7.00 pm**

Present:

Cllrs	Fulcher (Chair)
	Roberts
	Frosdick
	Perry
	Rosen

Also Present 0 member of the public
Cllrs. Doheny & Nuri-Nixon

F01/24	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> – None.
F02/24	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u> – None.
F03/24	<u>MINUTES OF MEETING</u> On the proposition of Cllr. Roberts and seconded by Cllr. Rosen it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19 th December 2023 as a correct record subject to a minor amendment to minute F61/23 ‘% use by Church and non-Church users’.
F04/24	<u>PROGRESS UPDATES</u> – None.
F05/24	<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u> – Cllr. Doheny spoke in favour of the grant application for Wymondham Town Football Club.
F06/24	<u>GRANT APPLICATION</u> received from Hope Community Church for £2,000 towards the cost of installing a lift costing £38,500. After discussion during which a number of concerns were raised, in particular an out-of-date Child Protection Policy. On this occasion it was unanimously agreed not to approve the grant request.
F07/24	<u>GRANT APPLICATION</u> received from Wymondham Town Football Club for £870 towards the cost of an additional storage container costing £3,480. Upon the proposition of Cllr. Rosen and seconded by Cllr. Roberts it was unanimously resolved to approve this application.
F08/24	<u>GRANT APPLICATION</u> received from Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group for £350 towards the cost of street entertainment at the Food & Drink Festival scheduled for 23 rd June 2024 costing £930. Upon the proposition of Cllr. Rosen and seconded by Cllr. Frosdick it was unanimously resolved to approve this application.

F09/24	<p><u>GRASS CUTTING DECK</u> Clerk presented paper requesting approval for the purchase of a replacement grass cutting deck with a quote from a local supplier. After discussion this was not considered to be a specialist piece of equipment and that 3 quotes would be required under financial regulations. Two further quotes to be sought and the request can be brought back to full Council.</p>
F10/24	<p><u>MARKET CROSS</u> Clerk presented paper requesting approval for the repair and repainting of the outside of the Market Cross with a quote from a local painting and decorating company who have experience of listed buildings. After discussion as to whether Listed Buildings Consent was required from SNC (Cllr. Roberts to make enquiries) this was not considered to be a specialist service and that 3 quotes would be required under financial regulations. Two further quotes to be sought and the request can be brought back to the Committee.</p>
F11/24	<p><u>CEMETERY RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATION</u> Cllr. Perry introduced his paper proposing alteration to the current requirements to qualify for residential rates in respect of fees. After discussion upon the proposition of Cllr. Perry and seconded by Cllr. Rosen it was unanimously resolved to replace the present qualifying criteria with the following 'For the purpose of determining fees, an inhabitant of Wymondham is a person who at the time of their death was a resident of Wymondham and had been living in Wymondham for at least 1 year and had reasonable evidence to show this is the case. Please be aware that as from the 1st of April 2019 Spooner Row, Wattlefield and part of Sutton no longer fall within the Parish of Wymondham and therefore the inhabitants will no longer be classed as residents of Wymondham. Former residents who, at time of death, were residing in a retirement home located outside Wymondham will be treated as residents in accordance with the above.</p> <p>This change to be effective from 1st April 2024.</p>
F12/24	<p><u>CEMETERY FEES (RESIDENTIAL) DISCOUNT</u> Cllr. Perry presented his motion seconded by Cllr. Rosen – 'A discount rate is available for Wymondham Residents who receive universal credit, in work tax credits, or any other benefits relating to disability caring, or low income'. After discussion, relating to who does this apply to, Cllr. Perry clarified that it was the person organising the funeral who if eligible for one of these benefits would result in a discount being offered. The rate to be set each year irrespective of the ability of the deceased estate to pay the fees.</p> <p>For 2 Against 3 The motion was lost.</p>

F13/24	<u>GRANT APPLICATION FORM</u> Upon the proposition of Cllr. Roberts and seconded by Cllr. Rosen it was unanimously agreed to approve a new grant application form and policy guidelines (subject to an amendment to 9.c to read 'To organisations whose purpose are primarily for specifically religious, moral, philosophical or part-political purposes.).
F14/24	<u>FEES AND CHARGES</u> Discussion took place on fees and charges for the 2024 – 2025 financial year including a proposal from Cllr. Perry to increase cemetery fees by 10% and then to offer a 66.6% reduction for qualifying residents instead of the preset 75%. Allotment fees to be increased by 10%, planter advertising to be reduced by 20% and minor adjustments to be made to other services. Upon the proposition of Cllr. Roberts and seconded by Cllr. Perry it was unanimously resolved to recommend fees in accordance with the attached sheet.
F15/24	<u>EXCLUSION PRESS & PUBLIC</u> On the proposition of Cllr. Roberts and seconded by Cllr Frosdick resolution by the Council under the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 to exclude Press and the Public from the meeting of Wymondham Town Council in order to discuss matters where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
F16/24	<u>DRAFT INTERNAL INTERIM ACCOUNTS</u> Clerk gave an outline of the financial position of the Council as of 31 st December 2023 as shown by the 'Draft Internal' accounts that had been prepared. The Clerk gave an explanation of the significant variants and answered questions.

(The meeting closed at 20.45 pm)

DATED this day of2024

SIGNED (Chairman)