

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

held in The Stevenson Centre at 7:39pm on Monday 18th December 2023

**Present**  Councillors Cllr Tony Bavington **Chair**

Cllr Marjorie Bark Cllr Sharon Bowman

Cllr Stewart Sheridan Cllr Jane Wakeman

Cllr Pamela White Cllr David Young

Council Administrator Miss E Skuce

Council Administrator Mrs S Kubat

Council Manager Mrs N Tamlyn

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Tom Keane.

Cllr Judith Wilson did not attend the meeting.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

**NONE.**

1. **DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

**NONE.**

1. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – FOR NOTING**

Members reviewed and **NOTED** the Items Brought Forward list.

The Chair stated that the meeting scheduled for 14th December 2023 between the Parish Council and the Scouts to discuss the Village Hall Lease, had been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances and will be rearranged in the new year. **NOTED.**

1. **TO CONSIDER THE FY2024/2025 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY WARDENS**

Members considered the FY2024/2025 Service Level Agreement for the Community Wardens which confirmed that the hourly rate would increase from £23.24 to £24.63 starting on 1st April 2024. Members **NOTED** that this was a 6% increase, which was higher than the current rate of inflation but agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it accepts the FY2024/2025 Service Level Agreement and the increase in hourly rate to £24.63.

1. **TO CONSIDER WHAT IS REQUIRED TO ADOPT THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

Members reviewed ‘The General Power of Competence – Empowering Councils to make a difference’ document. The General Power of Competence (GPC) was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and took effect in February 2012. In simple terms, it gives Councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation.

The Council Manager highlighted that one of the criteria to be met in order for the Parish Council to be eligible to adopt the GPC is a Council Manager that holds a recognised sector-specific qualification.

It was **AGREED** to note the document at this stage and seek to adopt the GPC once the Parish Council had a Council Manager with the relevant qualification in post.

1. **TO CREATE A SMALL PANEL OF MEMBERS TO INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR THE STEVENSON CENTRE CHARITY BANKING**

The Chair explained that as The Stevenson Centre Charity was experiencing difficulties with its current banking arrangements, as discussed at the last Charity meeting, he was suggesting a small number of Members meet in the new year to discuss alternative arrangements. As the Charity was not due to meet until the end of January 2024, it would be prudent to meet as soon as possible to look at alternatives, not only for The Stevenson Centre but also the Parish Council as anything that adversely affects one can affect the other.

The Chair proposed that Cllrs Bowman, Sheridan and Wilson (who was not present at this meeting) make up that group of Members. It was **AGREED** to appoint Cllrs Bowman, Sheridan and Wilson, subject to Cllr Wilson’s agreement, and for the Council Administrator to arrange a meeting in the new year.

1. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
2. **To approve the latest list of payments**

Members reviewed and **NOTED** the latest list of payments **(see Appendix A).**

1. **Proposal to EXCLUDE PRESS AND PUBLIC from the meeting in accordance with section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act (1960) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of confidential and exempt information**

The Chair proposed that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act (1960) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of confidential and exempt information. **AGREED.**

1. **TO CONSIDER A STATEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND OWNERSHIP**

Members had been provided with a list of Council owned land which detailed land already registered with HMLR and land yet to be registered, the Deeds for which were held with the Council’s solicitors.

Members discussed taking the matter forward and registering all unregistered land with HMLR. It was felt that only the registration of Blackhouse Lane sportsfield should be a priority at this point, given that the Council was in the process of Lease negotiations with Cornard Dynamos. Once the Lease was in place and the land registered with HMLR, then both Cornard Dynamos and Cornard United would be able to register their Leases.

It was **AGREED** to add the registration of Blackhouse Lane sportsfield to the Items Brought Forward List and to add the other land for future consideration on a case by case basis. It was also **AGREED** for the land registrations to be added to the Council’s Risk Assessment Schedule.

1. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CORNARD DYNAMOS MANAGEMENT TEAM**

The Council Manager confirmed that the details regarding the Club’s management team, requested by the Council’s solicitors, had been provided by Cornard Dynamos and forwarded on accordingly. However, the Club have also been asked to provide some further information which when received, will be passed on to the solicitors. **NOTED.**

**Meeting closed at 8:20 pm**

**APPENDIX A**

