

**Minutes of the SPC Finance Committee held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7pm at the Civic Hall, Uppermill.**

**Present:** Councillors : S. Al- Hamdani (SA-H) (Chairman)

G. Sheldon (GS)

K. Phillips (KP),

RFO : J Price (JP); Clerk: K Allott (KA)

**526. Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs H. Bishop (HB); B. Lord (BL)

**527. Absent**

Cllrs J Hudson (JH); L. Dawson (LD)

**528. Declarations of interest**

None declared

**529. Minutes from the last meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

These minutes were accepted as correct and signed off by the Chairman

**530. Matters Arising**

KP mentioned progress on Warm Spaces initiative and there was some discussion around this. It is in on next week's Environment meeting agenda and the Chair of Churches Together in Saddleworth has been invited to attend. JP advised there may be some funding available towards this (eg. Extra utility costs, draught proofing).

**531. Final Accounts 2021-22 Audit Update**

JP advised that that the AGAR final accounts had been submitted in July but he had received an email from the Accountants advising they had not yet completed the audit due to time pressures. He has still posted the Notice of Audit onto the website advising incomplete as it a statutory requirement this is done.

GS asked if SPC were satisfied with this service as they had missed the deadline?

JP advised they are a NALC recommended supplier for Parish Councils; the SLA is due for renewal next Spring.

SA-H requested that we notify NALC to make them aware that the auditor had missed the deadline the year.

It was advised that NALC conduct the due diligence and award the contracts for all Parish Councils.

SA-H thanked the RFO for posting the information so quickly onto the website.

### **532. 2023-2024 Timelines & 533. Request Proposals from Committees with budgets**

Both these agenda items are linked and were discussed together and there was some discussion around this and the timeline was agreed. The 2023-24 budget needs to be ready to submit to OMBC in March. So it needs to have been signed off at Full Council in February.

The Environment meeting arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> October already has an agenda item listed for budget review and setting. The Clerk will also add this item to the next agenda of the other two committees that hold a budget – Assets Management and Communications. Plan to have all information in for December so the proposed budget will be ready for February.

GS asked the RFO to attend the next Assets Management meeting in November.

SA-H asked the RFO for some comparisons on energy costs and there was some discussion around the Energy Cap for businesses – only 6 months – wait further info – although we are fixed until 8<sup>th</sup> June.

### **534. Timings regarding salary payments**

JP advised this was still a work in progress, he had yet to talk to a member of staff for their view as on long term sick. Plus needed to look into in more detail the effect it may have on a staff member who is in receipt of tax credits. To be discussed again at the next meeting.

### **535. Banking Arrangements**

There was some discussion around this. JP advised there had been issues with our current bank Natwest and was looking at alternatives. He was looking at Virgin (previously Yorkshire Bank). The Clerk advised Virgin Business banking at her previous place of work had been very good with a dedicated account manager and no charges. She also suggested the RFO looks into Lloyds Bank for another comparison as they were on the Rochdale Council list of preferred suppliers and she had heard good reports of them.

### **536. Items for next Agenda**

Final Accounts

Proposed Budget 2023-4 update

Timings regarding salary payments

Banking arrangements

### **537. Next Meeting Dates**

This has been rearranged to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 19.00pm.

