

Minutes of the SPC Finance Committee held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7pm at the Civic Hall, Uppermill.

Present: Councillors : S. Al- Hamdani (SA-H) (Chair)
H. Bishop (HB), G. Sheldon (GS)
K. Phillips (KP), L. Dawson (LD),

506. Apologies for Absence (1)

R. Knotts (RK), B. Lord (PL)

507. Declarations of interest (2)

None

508. Minutes from FC Meeting on 14th January (3)

After being proposed by GS and seconded by SA-H, the minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair at the meeting.

509. FY 2021-22 Final Accounts (Cashbook Basis) (4)

A brief review was undertaken of a schedule summarising the numbers by Committee Total which compared the Actuals to the latest Forecast (prepared January 22) for the financial year ending 31st March. It was noted that the end result of £218,410 Net Costs was within £566 (0.26%) of Forecast.

510. Internal Audit and AGAR/Final Accounts Status (5)

JDP reported that due to various issues (mainly around IT), the Internal Audit has been delayed but should be back on track by the end of May/early June. The original target of AGAR completion by the 1st July should still be achieved.

511. Review of Financial Regulations (6)

The members agreed that the single amendment to the Financial Regulations (ie removal of the 'Clerk has been appointed as RFO' in clause 1.2) should be presented for approval to the Annual Meeting on Monday 23rd May 2022.

512. Planning Consultancy Provision (7)

The proposal and quote presented by Nick Willock of chartered surveyors Robert Halstead (RH) in his email to RK dated 21st April 2022 was discussed. JDP also presented an analysis of Geoff Willerton's (GW) planning consultancy costs for the 12 months ending 31st March by way of comparison to the RH costs.

As the decision regarding ongoing planning consultancy provision ultimately lies with the Planning Committee, it was agreed that the GW cost schedule should be forwarded by JDP to RK (Chair) together with a comment that the

Finance Committee were concerned about the rising consultancy costs which they hoped would not run out of control. (since actioned)

513. Rates, Insurance, Energy Costs (8)

JDP presented annual cost information by month for all 3 items.

- **Rates** - it was noted that costs (£1,198/m or £11,980/pa) had remained static since the last review and were set to stay the same for next financial year to 31st March 2023.
- **Insurance** - it was noted that SPC is currently in the 2nd of a 5 year fixed contract with providers Zurich which ends in May 2026. The cost will rise by 0.8% for the 2nd year to 31st May 2023.
- **Energy** - it was noted that SPC is currently in a fixed contract with providers British Gas for both gas and electricity which ends in June 2023. It was noted that given our environmental commitment, civic hall energy usage should be managed as efficiently as possible and that an energy audit should be recommended to the Assets Management Committee.

514 Items for next Agenda (9)

Internal Audit and AGAR/Final Accounts Status.

515 Next Meeting Date (10)

Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 7pm