

Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting

Kidsgrove Town Council
Victoria Hall
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Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11th February 2022 6:30pm Meeting held in the Victoria Hall, Kidsgrove.

The meeting opened at 6:30pm.

FPG/21-22/7/1 Present

Cllrs A Cooper (chair); A Cartwright; C Dickens; S Dymond; Cllr M Maxfield; Cllr M Stubbs; Cllr P Waring

Cllr D Allport attended as a member of the public.

Clerk to the Council – Sue Davies

FPG/21-22/7/2 To receive and consider apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from

FPG/21-22/7/3 To note declarations of Member's Interests

Cllr M Maxfield declared an interest in the grant application received from the Friends of Kidsgrove Station. She was asked to not vote on this item.

FPG/21-22/7/4 To consider and approve the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 13th January 2022.

The committee resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the 13th January 2022.

Chair

FPG/21-22/7/5 Public Participation (A period of not exceeding 15 minutes for the press or public to make comments.)

No comments made.

FPG/21-22/7/6 Matters Arising: Updates only on items outstanding not otherwise on the agenda or currently requiring further actions agreeing or decisions.

None raised.

FPG/21-22/7/7 Grant Applications:

a) The receive a grant application from Friends of Kidsgrove Station and to resolve to agree to approve or otherwise.

The committee resolved to approve the grant application of £500 received from the Friends of Kidsgrove Station.

b) To further consider the grant application from Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group and to agree any actions and agree a recommendation for Full Council, including any conditions or provisos.

The committee further considered the grant application received from Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group.

It was noted that two Community Group representatives had attended on the 1st February 2022 to present their business plan and for a question-and-answer session with F&GP members.

It was further noted that there is a power to spend on through the General Power of Competence (GPC) which the Council holds. Furthermore, if the Council didn't hold the GPC, the power to spend would be covered under the Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19.

A proposal was put forward for consideration to get the pool up and running:

- that the Town Council offer £55,000 to enable the group to buy the pool cover and anything else necessary to get the pool up and running.
- that a Town Councillor be added to the Community Centre Board because of the substantial amount of Town Council money that is being offered.
- That the swimming pool cover have the Town Council LOGO added.

The Clerk reported that currently general reserved at year end are predicted to be circa £90,000 to £100,000. The grant fund currently stands at more than £8000. Money is available in the capital project earmarked reserve (approx. £44,000) and that approximately £8000 will be unspent in the budget line for allotment fencing.

It was affirmed by the Clerk that since the group are VAT registered, there could be no benefit from the group purchasing equipment to allow the VAT to be reclaimed. It was further noted that some items on the grant request include the VAT in the price given (namely the swimming pool cover) and that this VAT is reclaimable by the group.

A further proposal was put forward to offer £70,000 to reflect the full amount requested minus the VAT by taking money from general reserves.

The Committee resolved by majority show of hands to recommend to Full Council that £55,000 be offered in a grant award to the Community Group. It was further agreed to recommend to Full Council that £8000 be taken from the allotment fencing budget line, £8000 from the grant budget line with the residual being taken from the earmarked capital reserve.

The following provisos and conditions were agreed to be recommended to Full Council by majority show of hand

- That the Town Council have a place on the board. It was noted that the method of working of this would need to be determined and agreed as the Council are unsure of the management set-up of the Community Group going forward.
- That the Town Council LOGO is put on the swimming pool cover.
- That the Community Group supply a statement to verify their procurement procedures and that they have attempted to ensure value for money.

FPG/21-22/7/8 Victoria Hall Matters:

a) To receive a verbal update report from the Clerk on maintenance and operational issues and to agree any actions required including:

i. Consideration of the clause in the premises licence which doesn't allow under 14s in the bar area – to receive an update from the Clerk.

The Clerk updated from a meeting held with NULBC licencing team. Proposed changes to the licence were discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk progress the premises licence change that will include removal of the under 14s rule. It was also agreed that the 'Challenge 25' must be implemented. Also, the clerk informed that decisions around the provision of security staff would remain with the Clerk and not the designated premises supervisor, but that consultation should take place and that a log of security staff used must be kept.

Action: The Clerk to progress the licence changes and implement the other measures.

ii. Advertising considering for both hall events and bar – exterior banners and signage

It was agreed that a consistent approach was needed to the many requests for banners on the railing at the Town Hall.

The following policy was agreed:

Commercial events not be allowed to place banners on the railing except in the case where notice of being present was required on the day. (eg ticket sales on the door etc). The banner be allowed on the day of the event only and that this be at the Clerk's discretion.

Community and charity events, as defined in the bookings policy, be allowed to put banners up for up to 7 days prior to their event and remove them within 24 hours of completion of their event.

- b) To receive a verbal update report from the Clerk on Victoria Hall bookings and to agree any issues arising including consideration of the need or otherwise of the current 180 cap.**

It was agreed to remove the Covid-19 related cap. However, it was agreed that all hirers be notified that the Council reserves the right to re-impose the restriction should it become necessary and will have the final word on this. All hall hirers should be made aware of this.

- FPG/21-22/7/9 To receive and consider an update to the five-year plan**

There was no update to report.

- FPG/21-22/7/10 Clerk's and Chair's Reports**

None raised.

- FPG/21-22/7/11 To agree and note the date and time of the next meeting:**

It was noted that the date on the schedule of 24th February 2022 has now been reserved for a Full Council meeting. The following scheduled meeting is the 12th April 2022. However, it was agreed that a meeting will be required before this date and the Clerk was asked to organise this and add it to the schedule.

Matters to be considered with the Press and Public Excluded: Exclusion of press and public: To resolve under 1960 (Admission to meetings) Act to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

- FPG/21-22/7/12 To receive an update on the bar contract including receiving a draft contract.**

The clerk reported she has a meeting with the solicitor the following week. It was reported that costs may increase over that originally agreed.

The meeting closed: 19:25pm