

**IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee  
Held at the Town Hall on Monday 9 January 2023 at 7pm**

Present: Cllr S Hladkij (Chairperson)  
Cllr P Dredge  
Cllr T Munro  
Cllr A Rea  
Cllr A Spencer

In attendance: Mr Jonathan Parsons, Town Clerk  
Mrs Pauline Cleal, Senior Finance Officer

PR22/037 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr Parsons.

PR22/038 **INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED:** The Chairman invited the declaration of any interests. There were no interests declared.

PR21/039 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Members considered the accounts for payment for November and December 2022 (copy previously circulated). Cllr Dredge highlighted a few of the payments, such as grants awarded to Makers Mews, The Royal British Legion, Ivybridge Caring and The Ivybridge and District Community Transport. He also highlighted payments regarding the Christmas Festival and to groups performing at the Watermark. Cllr Dredge highlighted a payment for repairs in the Cemetery Chapels and the labour invoice regarding the upgrade in the Watermark lighting.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the list for payments for November and December 2022 in the sum of £222,518.14 and approve the list of BACS payments.

PR22/040 **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS:** Consideration was given to a report on the accounts for the period to 30 November 2022 (copy previously circulated). Cllr Dredge informed Members that the salaries back pay award was included in the November figures, where the Watermark had a very positive October, November showed a loss which was due to the salary figure almost double the normal monthly amount due to the back pay due. The Cemetery figures were above budget with the balance of the agency fee to be invoiced.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the accounts for the period to 30 November 2022.

PR22/041 **DEBTORS UPDATE:** The Committee considered the aged debtors report (copy previously circulated). Cllr Dredge informed members that he had spoken to the Finance Officer who is in the process of chasing all outstanding debtors and there were none of concern at present.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the debtors update.

PR22/042 **HEALTH AND SAFETY:** The Committee considered the regular update from the Assistant Town Clerk (copy previously circulated). The Town Clerk mentioned there were no major incidents to report.

It was **RESOLVED** to note and receive the Health and Safety report.

PR22/043 **INVESTMENTS:** Consideration was given to opening a short-term savings account, report and information (copy previously circulated). Cllr Rea asked if there was any protection cover for funds in the bank, the Town Clerk informed him only personal bank funds are protected not Town and Parish Councils. Cllr Spencer enquired about the rating of the bank and this was confirmed to be a good rating. Cllr Rea proposed and Cllr Spencer seconded.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk would look into the cash flow and invest up to £200k for a period of 6 months in a Fixed Term Deposit with Lloyds Bank.

PR22/044 **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:** The Committee considered the report (copy previously circulated) regarding change of criteria. Members felt that changing the criteria for the Award part way through a year was not a good idea as some nominations had been received. The Town Clerk suggested he contact the nominees to seek further information and clarification with regard to the nominations, which will be considered at a Full Council meeting in the future. It was suggested that the criteria for the Awards be reviewed later in 2023 for nominations for 2023-2024.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk contact the nominees regarding clarification of their nominations.

PR22/045 **PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-2024:** The Committee considered the proposed budget report (copy previously circulated). The Town Clerk informed Members that he and the Senior Finance Officer had worked on the budget and the increase was less than 5%, well below current inflation. Cllr Hladkij enquired if the budget included an allowance for a Mayoral photograph and a Full Council photograph, the Town Clerk replied there were adequate funds. Cllr Spencer referred to the Community Fundraiser which had been discussed at Full Council quoting the Minutes where Cllr Wilson felt that this should not have a major impact on the precept. Members discussed this and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would include and clarify the precept impact in his budget report to Full Council. Cllr Hladkij asked for a vote on the proposed budget: Cllrs Dredge, Hladkij and Spencer agreed to recommend to Full Council with the changes to the budget report explaining the impact on the precept and Cllr Rea and Cllr Munro abstained.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend the proposed budget 2023-2024 to the Full Council on the proviso that the Town Clerk highlights in his Budget Report the impact of the Community Fundraiser on the precept.

***In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was resolved that the public and press be invited to withdraw.***

PR22/046 **SILVERMINE SUITE:** The Town Clerk gave a verbal update regarding the implementation of the terms of the current lease with the Cricket Club. The Town Clerk and Cllr Spencer met with the chairman of the Cricket Club to discuss the lease. Although no increases had been applied previously it was agreed not to back date the increases but from 21 December 2022 there would be an increase of 6% and each year increased in line with the lease.

It was **RESOLVED** to increase the Cricket Club rent by 6% from 21 December 2022 and in future to apply increases in line with the lease.

PR22/047 **ACCOUNTS SOFTWARE:** Consideration was given to the renewal of the account's software licence (copy previously circulated). The Town Clerk informed Members that the software suppliers had been taken over by a larger company and had heard that investment and improvements in the software by the new owners were expected and by renewing the licence for the next 3 years will enable the Council to access additional functions.

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the software licence for a further 3 years.

The meeting closed at 8.18pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Dated.....