

MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

15th August 2023, 7:30pm
The Guildhall

Cllr Cook (Chair)	Present	Cllr Rowlands	Present
Cllr Crayford	Present	Cllr Saunders	Present
Cllr Eyre	Apology	Cllr Thomas	Present
Cllr T Martin	Apology		

Public Questions:

None.

025. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr T Martin and Cllr Eyre. Cllr Crayford had sent an apology advising he was delayed.

026. Declarations of Interest

None.

027. Dispensations

The Town Clerk advised dispensations had been granted to Cllr Crayford and Cllr Eyre in respect of voting on the Community Grant Applications.

028. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting dated 3rd July 2023.**

029. Month End Reports

Cllr Saunders queried why the budget expenditure on PAYE/NI was 36.7% and Pension 32.8% was higher compared to Salaries at 26.4%. Cllr Cook advised he would check these figures when he carried out the monthly audit.

Cllr Saunders queried the current situation on energy costs. The Town Clerk advised the supplier had changed to Octopus Energy, and the eventual spend depended on the level of increase of energy costs over the Autumn/Winter.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Month End Reports.**

030. Earmarked Reserves

Cllr Crayford entered the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Thomas, to reduce the EMR for Active Travel from £75,517 to £20,000, the EMR for Crime Research from £11,662 to £1,000 and the EMR for Public Spaces Projects from £7,800 to £1,000. With 3 votes **FOR**, and 2 votes **AGAINST**, the proposal succeeded.

Cllr Cook	FOR	Cllr Saunders	AGAINST
Cllr Crayford	AGAINST	Cllr Thomas	FOR
Cllr Rowlands	FOR		

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Crayford, to reduce Active Travel from £75,517 to £54,900 to reflect the plans of the Active Travel Committee over the next 18-month period. With 2 votes **FOR**, and 3 votes **AGAINST**, the proposed amendment failed.

Cllr Cook	AGAINST	Cllr Saunders	FOR
Cllr Crayford	FOR	Cllr Thomas	AGAINST
Cllr Rowlands	AGAINST		

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council recognises the importance of the crime research it has undertaken and is committed to providing a budget for any future recognitions that come from it.**

4 VOTES FOR/1 ABST.

031. Neighbourhood Plan

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the request for an additional £10,000 budget for 2023/24.**

032. Community Grant Applications

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Thomas, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to provide the funding for the automatic door openers for fire doors at the office, from the General Reserves.**

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to increase the funding for Community Grant applications by up to £10,000.**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to consider the grant applications in order of highest score first.**

The following Community Grants were awarded:

Abbey Physic Community Garden	£5,000.00
Christmas Lights	£5,000.00
Creed Outdoor Learning	£1,000.00
Faversham Carnival Club	£3,000.00
Faversham Pools	£1,872.50
Faversham Strikeforce	£2,500.00

Faversham Umbrella	£1,872.50
Friends of St Mary of Charity Church	£2,755.00
West Faversham Community Centre	£5,000.00
TOTAL AWARDED	£28,000,00

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to cover the grant application from Millfield Allotments, of £368.00, from the Allotments budget.**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for Creed Outdoor Learning to be awarded £1,000 on the basis that Cllr Rowlands would bring a proposal to the Community Committee for the remaining amount of £900.**

033. Annual Action Plan

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to circulate the draft Annual Action Plan to the Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee, with a 10-day deadline for response to the Town Clerk, and instruct the Committees to start work on the Annual Action Plan for 2024/2025.**

3 VOTES FOR/2 AGAINST

Cllr Cook	FOR	Cllr Saunders	AGAINST
Cllr Crayford	AGAINST	Cllr Thomas	FOR
Cllr Rowlands	FOR		

034. Crime Research

It was proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to review the recommendations and refer to the appropriate Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for Domestic Violence recommendations be referred to the Community Committee with input from the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group.**

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for Funding recommendations be dealt with by the Policy and Resources Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for all remaining recommendations listed be referred to the Community Committee with input from Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group, with the exception of the Expansion of Street Bike Hangars, to be referred to the Active Travel Committee, and Lighting in Faversham Recreation Ground, to be referred to the Environment Committee.**

035. Military Covenant

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to sign the Military Covenant.**

036. Matters for Report

List of Payments Report to Town Council

It was agreed that Councillors would send comments to the Town Clerk on how they would like the List of Payments Report to be formatted and presented in future.

037. Private Session

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put the meeting it was **RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the commercial confidentiality of the business to be transacted.**

038. Mayoral Robes

The costings for replacement robes were noted.

The meeting closed at 9:55pm.