

St Cleer Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 11th September 2019, held at Council Sports Pavilion, Hockings House, St Cleer.

Penelope Andrews, Councillor		
Kelvin Buckley, Councillor		
Sue Harbord, Councillor	Chair of Council	In attendance
Suzanne Horsfield, Councillor		
Jonathan Prinn, Councillor	FGPC Committee	Apology Accepted
Clive Sargeant, Councillor		
Brian Seage, Councillor	FGPC Committee	In attendance
Martin Shead, Councillor	FGPC Committee	In attendance
Brian Smith, Councillor	FGPC Committee	Apology Accepted
Tony Turton, Councillor		
Derris Watson, Councillor		
Andy Webb, Councillor	Vice Chair of Council	
Martin Eddy, Cornwall Councillor	St Cleer, St Neot and Warleggan	
Roni Jones	Clerk In attendance	RJ
Members of the Public		

There were no nominations for Chair or Vice Chair, SH agreed to Chair this meeting

1	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted as above</p>	
2	<p>Members declarations</p> <p>a. Disclosable pecuniary interests b. Non-registrable interests c. Declarations of gifts d. Applications for dispensations</p> <p>None</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of Previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting 19.6.19 were discussed. These were Proposed by BSg; Seconded by MS. Motion Carried</p> <p>The Minutes were duly signed</p>	

4 Matters Arising

FRED 2 – It was agreed that this be held on the 3rd Wednesday in October – 16th 2019

5 Financial Matters

- August Budget vs Actual
- Reconciliations

Documents had been circulated previously and the Clerk invited questions; BSg asked about an uncleared bank transfer and this was addressed in relation to reconciliations / creating beneficiaries and then making payments so whilst the payment had been put into Rialtas; not through Unity which now had been rectified

6	<p>Risk Register</p> <p>No new items but this may change on / after 25th when a site visits to the Allotments is being conducted by SH, JP and the Clerk</p>	
7	<p>ICO Complaint</p> <p>Document had been circulated previously and the Clerk invited questions / amendments / issues. None were raised and the response would be sent in due course</p>	

8 Policy and Procedures

Transparency Code St Cleer

The Clerk presented an enhanced Code and asked for comments; it is heavily annotated and SH asked w this remain? It was considered acceptable to leave the references in.
Proposed SH to take to Parish, Seconded MS and Carried

Publications Policy

Revised for the year 2019/2020 - Proposed SH to take to Parish, Seconded MS and Carried

Paying Employees

A new policy which would enhance work undertaken in resilience, required as a core policy for the CILC
Proposed MS to take to Parish, Seconded BSG and Carried

HASAW

An outline of actions to show St Cleer's workplan in relation to Health and Safety Legislation
Proposed MS to take to Parish, Seconded BSG and Carried

Internal Controls

A new policy which would enhance work undertaken in governance and transparency, required as a cor policy for the CILCA Proposed MS to take to Parish, Seconded SH and Carried

9	<p>NALC Consultation on the AGAR</p> <p>E mail circulated was discussed</p> <p>Consultation questions</p> <p>NALC will be responding to the below review questions and is interested in the sector's views:</p> <p>1. Have audit standards been maintained or improved, and not been compromised?</p> <p>(a) In particular we are interested to hear from local (parish and town) councils as to why / how they think audit standards have been maintained and not comprised (or otherwise).</p> <p>As a Parish that in the last financial year was required to make several changes – all of which were put into place and were not noted as issues at the last AGAR we consider that audit standards have been maintained</p> <p>We think that the language used ought to be more user friendly so as to have better universal understanding</p> <p>2. Is there an 'expectation gap' in what external audit provides? What is the nature of the gap and how can it be filled?</p> <p>(a) In particular we are interested to hear from Super Councils as to whether they think they are likely to exceed the £6.5 million ceiling threshold for the limited audit regime in the next three years.</p>	
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	<p>We are not a Super Council; our expectation was reassurance we are doing the right thing and for the reason above we consider that this has been provided.</p> <p>3. Are auditors properly responding to questions or objections by local taxpayers?</p> <p>(a) In particular NALC is interested to hear examples of councils suffering repeat vexatious local objections to their accounts from their residents.</p> <p>NA</p> <p>4. Are audit recommendations effective in helping local authorities to improve their financial management?</p> <p>(a) In particular we are interested to hear from local councils as to whether they think current internal audit arrangements for their council are strong enough with examples.</p> <p>Given the requirements of the External Auditor St Cleer has revolutionized its accounting arrangements and the finding of fault underpinned a justification of the expense incurred. A resounding YES</p> <p>5. Does the financial information provided in local authority accounts facilitate scrutiny by local taxpayers and by the local press?</p> <p>(a) In particular NALC would be interested to hear examples from local councils which have had to pay excessive audit fees to cover the costs of an audit investigation and where these fees have been in excess of the council's annual precept.</p> <p>NO Comment</p>	
10	<p>Business plan / STFS</p> <p>Item Rolled Over to Fred 2</p>	
11	<p>Receipts and Payments</p> <p>None</p>	

Meeting closed at 8pm