



Present - Councillor Kirkham (Chair), Councillor Marren (Mayor) and Councillors Bartram, Bostock, Hall, Lewis, David Thomas and the Town Clerk.

1 FOOD FESTIVAL

Committee received a presentation on the proposed Food Festival Internet Funnel System by the Food Festival Committee.

The system is being demonstrated to the main sponsors of the Food Festival. It has the capability for automatic social media posting of newsletters, press release, promotions, gift vouchers, booking facilities, events promotions, direct sales and competitions. The Food Festival is paying the licence fee and the system is currently maintained by volunteers.

Committee requested the Clerk to prepare a report for consideration by the next Policy Committee. The Chair thanked the Food Festival representatives for their presentation.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowyer-Bates and Moran.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kirkham declared a non-pecuniary interest in Nantwich Museum and as a Trustee of Nantwich Churchwardens' Merged Charity.

Councillor Bostock declared an interest as an allotment holder.

4 MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF 26 APRIL 2018

The minutes of the Meeting held on 26 April 2018 were approved.

The Clerk had written to the Acting Chief Executive at Cheshire East regarding the lack of action on the Brookfield drainage issue and a letter will follow to the resident of Shrewbridge Road who has made a complaint about the flooding.

Cheshire East has responded to the issue of invoices for electricity supplies at the Civic Hall and the Market and is arguing that this should only apply from 1 April 2018 when the car parking permits were no longer made available. The Clerk was instructed to pursue this issue to secure full payment.

There has been no progress in removing the lighting column at the Market Store.

5 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk reported that the RBS Branch in Pillory Street will close on 26 July. Counter facilities will be available at NatWest Bank and there will be no need to change banks at this stage.

6 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Committee considered applications for grant aid to the CAP project, the Town Crier competition and Nantwich Museum. Committee also considered sponsorship of a South Cheshire Business Award.

| Applicant | Project | Total cost (£) | Grant Requested (£) | Notes |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| St Mary's Church | Development of partnership with C & N Christians against Poverty | 10,378 | 1,000 (originally £3,000) | Provision of CAP money programmes and CAP job club – Set up costs £1,000 – Annual cost of Job club £8760. |

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|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| Further information received from the applicants indicates that the grant is required for set up costs. If there are any revenue costs for staffing in future years these costs will be met from other sources. Committee RESOLVED to award a grant of £1,000. | | | | |
| Mr J Parsons | Town Crier competition | ? | 500 | Mr Parsons has indicated by e-mail that he would like to run the competition again this year. |
| Committee RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to award a grant of £500 subject to appropriate checks regarding the status of the competition. | | | | |
| Nantwich Museum | Running costs | 1,000 | 1,000 | Mr Dyer has written to outline the increase in running costs at the Museum and has requested an increase in the annual grant. |
| Committee RESOLVED to award a grant of £500 to cover additional costs in this financial year. The Museum will be encouraged to make another submission as part of setting the budget for 2019/20. | | | | |
| South Cheshire Chamber | Sponsorship of Business Award | 1,200 | 600 | South Cheshire Chamber is introducing a new business award category and is suggesting joint sponsorship by Crewe and Nantwich Town Councils. |
| Committee RESOLVED not to sponsor an award given by the South Cheshire Chamber. | | | | |

- 7** **ALLOTMENTS - DRAINAGE**
 Committee received a verbal report on drainage issues at Brookfield Allotments and Welshman's Lane Allotments. Correspondence on Brookfield had been sent to Cheshire East as discussed at the last meeting. Further investigation was now required at Welshman's Lane as the ditch outside the site is the responsibility of the Town Council.
- 8** **REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR**
 Committee received the report of the Internal Auditor for the quarter ending 31 March 2018 and noted that no matters of concern were raised.
 Committee also received and noted the Annual Internal Auditor Report for 2017/18 which will form part of the Annual Return to the external Auditor.
- 9** **ASSET REGISTER**
 Committee received and approved the Asset Register for 2017/18 which indicates the value of the Town Council's assets for inclusion in the Annual Return.
- 10** **ACCOUNTS 2017/2018**
 Committee noted the completion of actions in the Internal Audit Action plan.
 Committee received a report on the Accounts for 2017/2018 including
- a Governance Statement
 - b Accounting Statement for the Annual Return
 - c Income and Expenditure 2017/18
 - d Report of Variances (2016/2017 and 2017/18)
- Committee **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** to Council, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, that
- The Annual Governance Statement be approved
 - The Accounting Statements for 2017/2018 be approved
 - The Annual Return for 2017/2018 be approved, signed by the Mayor and submitted to the External Auditor.

11 **CAPITAL ACCOUNT**

Committee received a report on the capital account and noted the level of capital and revenue reserves.

12 **MARKET LETTINGS – VAT**
STREET TRADING AND BUSINESS RATES

The Clerk reported on the latest developments in respect of the charging of VAT on market lettings. A test case involving Shrewsbury Council is proceeding through the courts. NABMA advice is to continue to operate as at present until this case is resolved. The Clerk advised Committee that it may be necessary to create a reserve in next year's accounts to cover any possible back payment of VAT.

The Clerk also reported on the rating of markets held under street trading regulations. A test case is being heard by a tribunal.

13 **MARKET – INSURANCE OF TRADERS STOCK**

Committee received a verbal report on a representation by a market trader following a circular to traders advising of their need to insure goods in the market. The Facilities Manager was authorised to explore solutions for making stock secure on this stall.

14 **RESERVES**

Committee received and approved a report on revenue reserves for 2018/19.

15 **SECTION 137 LIMIT**

The Clerk presented a report on grant payments and the relevant powers under which they are made. Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 permits the Town Council to spend up to £7.89 per elector on grant awards. The report demonstrates that the Town Council is within the permissible spending total for 2018/19.

16 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Thursday 19 July 2018 5.30 pm Peggy Killick Suite, Nantwich Civic Hall.