



NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2021.

Present – Councillors: Peter Groves (Chair), Penny Butterill (Vice Chair), Carole Thomas, David Marren, John Statham and Phil Staley with Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

Also present: Councillors Pam Kirkham, Arthur Moran, Stuart Bostock, David Greaves

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Andrew Martin

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

15. MINUTES OF POLICY COMMITTEE OF 21ST JANUARY 2021

Committee approved the minutes of the Meeting held on 21st January 2021.

16. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Members considered the previously circulated draft Scheme of Delegation policy showing the track changes with proposed amendments in line with changes in legislation, and the Town Council's other adopted policies.

Following a question from Councillor Moran relating to reporting of appraisals to the Staffing Committee, Councillor Marren suggested that the Clerk should deal with less senior staff with only the results of the three senior staff members (Clerk, Facilities Manager and Deputy Clerk) coming to the Staffing Committee. The Clerk supported this proposals by Councillor Marren and suggested the Scheme of Delegation could be amended should members supports the proposals.

Councillor Moran also raised the anomaly of the approval level of the Finance Committee which showed £5,000 within the Scheme of Delegation whereas within the Grants Policy it states the approval of £500 as the level.

Councillor Marren suggested that the £500 level could be viewed as quite low but would not expect the committee to approve grants up to £5,000, but a figure in the region of £1,000 would be more realistic.

Councillor Marren questioned the quorum figure of a quarter of members at a full council meeting and suggested this figure should be higher. The Clerk advised that the amendments were in line with the approved Standing Orders, but suggested that if members agreed that the quorum number is too low then when the Standing Orders are reviewed this year the figure could be amended with the Scheme of Delegation amended in line with the decision of the full council.

Councillor Statham asked why there was a suggested amendment to have the Staffing Committee approve future salaries. The Clerk advised that it was to bring it in line with other policies, but as she was unable to provide the detail agreed to follow the response up with an email to members following the meeting.

Resolved: It was resolved to recommend the adoption of the amended Scheme of Delegation to Full Council subject to:

- a) The Full Council quorum figure being agreed within the Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation reflecting this;
- b) The Grant Scheme Policy approval levels being reviewed and the Scheme of Delegation reflecting this;

- c) The Clerk confirming the reason for the amendments for approving salaries

17. PLASTIC REDUCTION POLICY

Members considered the previously circulated report and attached draft policy. The Clerk informed members that the adoption of such a policy was part of an earlier resolution by the council when support was given to the Plastic Free Nantwich group. Members supported the idea of the policy which lead on to a discussion with a further commitment to consider a Climate Emergency for the Town Council. Councillor Marren suggested to consider a Climate Emergency the Town Council should first measure its existing carbon footprint. Councillor Statham, in supporting the draft policy suggested inviting a member of the Plastic Reduction group to the next meeting of the town council when the policy could be adopted.

Resolved: It was resolved to recommend the adoption of the Plastic Reduction Policy to Full Council with an invitation to a member of the Plastic Reduction Group to attend to confirm the groups support of the policy.

18. PETITIONS POLICY

Members considered the previously circulated draft policy and covering report. The Clerk advised members that she had considered two particular existing policies of other town and parish councils and had used elements of each of these to draft the proposed policy. The Clerk advised members that she sought guidance on the numbers for accepting petitions.

Councillor Moran in supporting the policy did raise concerns relating to the number of petitions from 10-99, with concern over just 10 petitions receiving consideration. Councillor Marren supported this concern and suggested the figure of 10 could be changed to 50-99.

Councillor Bostock asked whether it would just be resident precept payers who would have the right to sign a petition or could this include those who study or work in the town. Councillor Butterill suggested that the petition should come from a resident of the town and supported the idea of the number of petitions being changed to 50-99.

Councillor Statham, supported the amendment of the petition figures from 10-99 to 50-99, believing it to be a sensible figure. He also supported the eligibility of residents only as a sensible approach.

Resolved: It was resolved to recommend the adoption of the Petitions Policy subject to the amendments detailed above.

The meeting ended at 7.20PM

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....