Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council

Chairman of the Committee: Cllr H Unwin Clerk: Katrina Baker MBE MILCM

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd July 2019 at 8.00p.m. at Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre.

Present: Councillor H Unwin

Councillor S Unwin Councillor S Snell

Councillor S Vaughan-Hodkinson

Councillor L Ricketts Councillor V Holt Councillor C Turley

In Attendance: Katrina Baker, Clerk

FA19/554 Welcome

Councillor H Unwin welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

FA19/555 Apologies

None

FA19/556 Declarations of Interest

All Members Councillor's Remuneration Scheme

FA19/557 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2019

It was proposed by Cllr S Unwin and seconded by Cllr L Ricketts, with one abstention, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2019 be signed as a true record.

FA19/558 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

FA19/559 Financial Reports

Aged Analysis

The Randlay user group, over which there was a concern at the last meeting, has now brought their account up to date.

FA19/560 Grant Applications

Members had deferred this agenda item from Full Council for further consideration.

The application was for a grant to support an event to take place on 20th July in Malinslee. Our Grants Policy is clear in that our limited funds can only be used to support events that will have a significant positive effect on a significant number of Hollinswood & Randlay Residents.

Some Members had attended the event, which was not well attended and Members expressed concern that 'a number of Hollinswood & Randlay residents' did not benefit from the event, which the application had confirmed would cost £4000.

On this occasion, Members unanimously resolved that this application was not within the terms of the Grants Policy and therefore could not be supported.

Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre, 7 Downemead, Hollinswood, Telford TF3 2EW Tel: 01952 567961

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FA19/561 Remuneration Scheme

Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council has always followed the guidance of the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel published in 2004.

At each AGM, a report is produced for the previous year, stating how much was available to each Councillor and which Councillors claimed remuneration and how much they received. At the same meeting, there is always a decision as to whether the scheme will be available for the current financial year. Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council, to date, has always supported a scheme as it could enable someone to be a Councillor as it can be used to fund child-care or transport costs. Not all Councillors claim the remuneration and those who do receive it through PAYE. Members receive their payments, in arrears every 3 months and cannot be reimbursed if they do not attend any meetings in that three month period, unless there are exceptional circumstances in which case the Personnel Committee will make a recommendation to Full Council.

The current maximum of £500 for a larger Council is considered to be acceptable in this Parish, however Members wondered if it should be increased since this was set in 2004.

Members confirmed that the Parish Remuneration Scheme provided limited finance to support the Parish Councillors as they undertook their role to represent the community, it is not seen as a salary as it was agreed that their role is a contribution to the community and undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Each Parish Council has a range of services and activities, a list of those here at Hollinswood & Randlay will provided in the response.

The Council hold around 50 meetings per year, with Full Council, Committees and Special topic meetings. Members all represent the Parish Council on outside bodies. In addition to meetings, there are Council Surgeries and a diary of Events throughout the year. There is also a requirement to undertaken correspondence and email communications on a regular basis. It is difficult to estimate the amount of time committed to the role, but it would equate to in the region of one hour per day, 365 days of the year.

The Clerk will share the response with Members, prior to submitting it for use by the Remuneration Panel.

It was noted that the letter from TWC states that the cost of the Remuneration Panel will be borne equally by those council which it makes recommendation. This Council has not included funds in the budget for 2019/20 for this unexpected expenditure.

FA19/562 CCLA

The total now invested with CCLA is £50,000 and the Current Account has seen an increase in the interest in relation to this enhanced investment.

FA19/563 Council's Internal Audit Regime

The three sessions have been postponed until September.

FA19/564 Date of the Next Meeting

30 th September 2019	HNC	7pm
There being no further business, th	e Chairman closed the med	eting at 8.40pm.
Signed	Date	