

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

Parish Council Strategy and Five Year Plan

A copy of the final draft had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting. The Chairman thanked all members for their input into the Strategy and their attendance at both meetings.

The Strategy is more of a 5-year Plan and it was agreed that more information should be available in the 26-28 and 29 -30 columns for this to be most effective.

The clerk will review and forward to members for consideration. In the meantime, it was proposed by Councillor Vaughan-Hodkinson, seconded by Councillor Snell, all were in favour and thus it is

RECOMMENDED that the Parish Strategy and Five Year Plan, as circulated , be adopted.

Members agreed that the next steps would be to identify 'Where we Want to Be'.

Financial Reports**a) Balances and Investments**

The balances at the end of September had been circulated previously.

It was confirmed that none of the Parish Accounts hold in excess of £75,000 as recommended by the FCA. The total balance, in all accounts, totalled £288,464,68.

b) Budget Considerations

The Strategy will assist to identify additions that will be needed within the 2025/26 budget. It has been established that there are an additional 30+homes within the Parish, which will raise an addition £6000 if the Band D Properties were to remain as this year.

Governance Reports**a) Accidents and Near Misses**

There had been no accidents or near misses.

b) Risk Management

The Clerk confirmed that an assessment of risk had been undertaken and there were no amendments needed for the Parish Council and the insurance remains appropriate and adequate.

c) Parish Council Website

The website remains relatively new, and continues to develop. However, it is fully compliant with the Transparency Code.

Members were impressed with the auto- translation and to the countries that are available.

The Clerk confirmed that any changes to the website come at a cost. The website can be updated, with new documents and news items added, at no additional cost, however, any significant changes in design or operation will be charged for my the host company.

Members considered the existing website and in particular the home page. This is exactly what members had requested and thanks were extended to the web-designer and Stuart.

The thought for the day could be enhanced to include Climate Change Tips, once in a while.

Members were reminded to sign up to receive the electronic newsletter.

d) Employment Policies

The Clerk outlined the procedure followed as a return to work process which is implemented from Day One following any sickness. As line-manager this is undertaken by the Clerk.

However, members were concerned that there is no mention in the current policy regarding a return-to-work process if it involved the Clerk.

This will be considered and will appear on a future HR Committee agenda.

FA24/044

TWC / PTC Agreement

Copies of the document had been circulated to members as a reminder. On reading the document, Members realised that this is not only out-of-date, but also there are many examples of it failing in its commitments.

Whilst Members realised that this was, in the main, due to reduction in TW staff and resources, they also questioned what is the consequence to any member (TW or PTC) not acting under the agreement?

As far as the document states, there is no consequence, so therefore it lacks commitment.

Members viewed the questions and agreed that answering them would not assist to bring forward an improved partnership agreement with commitment from all parties.

It was proposed by Councillor H Unwin, seconded by Councillor Creed, all were in favour and thus it was

AGREED that the Clerk should contact Lee Higgins to request a meeting with all PTC Clerks and Councillor representatives, with the officers and Cabinet Member at TWC to discuss the way forward. At this time, there is a concern that some Parish Councils may not feel that they can sign up to the agreement.

FA24/045

Other Matters

Grant Application

Councillor H Unwin and Councillor S Unwin declared a non-pecuniary interest and took no part in the decision.

The Parish Council includes in its budget, funding to Year 6 pupils to attend the pantomime in Telford annually. This year Randlay Primary School wishes to travel to Wolverhampton. A lengthy discussion continued which included details of the Parish Council Climate Change Policy which has agreed that the Parish Council, wherever possible, will use local companies and organisations.

Some members could not support the outing to Wolverhampton when the International Centre is hosting a pantomime with no travel costs. This is contrary to our Climate Change Policy.

However, Members were keen to enable the children to have a pantomime experience and it was understood that the tickets had already been purchased.

Therefore, it was proposed by Councillor Creed, seconded by Councillor Johnson, with two abstentions, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the total cost of £725.00 be allocated to the school. This is to be used for local visits or experiences for Year 6 pupils which will then enable alternative funds to be allocated to the pantomime visit.

FA24/046

Date of the next meeting

25th November 2024

7.30pm.

Council Chamber

A draft budget will be circulated before the meeting for consideration.

The Chairman thanked Members for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

SignedDate