



**A MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE AND
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON
TUESDAY 30th AUGUST 2022 AT 7.00pm
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER**

Present

Cllr K Cargill (Mayor), Cllr V Blake (Deputy Mayor), Cllr G Forman, Cllr M Bowe and Cllr C Neal-Sturgess

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

1. Apologies

There were no apologies – all councillors present.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting had been signed at Full Council.

4. Matters arising (not otherwise dealt with on the Agenda)

Cllr Blake gave an update on his discussions regarding the tidying up of the Globe Island and the refurbishment of The Globe. The matter is on-going and an update will follow in due course.

5. Staffing Issues

- a.** The Town Clerk reported that she had undertaken Level 3 Safeguarding Adults training.

6. Finance Issues

- a.** The monthly management accounts which had been circulated in advance were approved. In response to a question from Cllr Forman, the Town Clerk reported that no progress had yet been made regarding obtaining a refund from Severn Trent who had not yet responded to the claim.
- b.** The Town Clerk reported that £100,000 had been transferred to PSDF in accordance with the investment strategy.
- c.** The Town Clerk reported that she had given notice to withdraw £75,000 from the 32-day notice account to cover anticipated Greig Hall expenditure in September.
- d.** The Town Clerk reported that from 1st August 2022, Biffa had failed to make any refuse collections from ATC sites. They finally admitted on 11th August that they would no longer be able to collect following the introduction of the domestic 123+ collection in the area. The Town Clerk complained in the strongest terms but no alternative was offered despite ATC being customers since 2014! The Town Clerk urgently sought quotes for a replacement service and has accepted a quotation from Fortress to start collections in w/c 29th August. Two skips have been used to clear refuse during August – thanks to staff for their efforts.
- e.** A new direct debit has been set up with Microtill to cover the recurring costs for the new tills at the Greig Hall. Responsibility for this expenditure will pass to the Greig Hall CIO in February.
- f.** The sum of £26,992.88 had been received from SDC as the outstanding s106 funds for the Greig Hall from the Bloor Homes Allimore Lane development site (northern parcel).
- g.** The sum of £12,400.00 had been received from Church Street Property Trust as a donation to cover fencing costs at the Greig Hall.
- h.** Significant expenditure in August included the following items for the Greig Hall (catering equipment £9101.94 and £1499.99; flooring £3720.00; chairs £18,023.16; exterior cleaning £4800.00). In addition, the sum of £9861.00 (which was the result of various fundraising events) was transferred to The Friends of the Greig Hall.

7. Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements

It was agreed to follow advice from NALC and SLCC and not to opt out of the central external auditor appointment arrangements.

8. Greig Hall

Cllr Bowe updated Councillors on the cash flow on the Greig Hall renovation project. He presented a spreadsheet showing anticipated expenditure until the end of the project. This totalled just under £152,000 plus VAT. He explained that two grants were unlikely to be received before part of this expenditure was due. These were the £25,000 grant from the WCC Green Shoots Fund and the circa £34,000 s106 funds due from the southern parcel of the Bloor Homes Allimore Lane development. It was agreed that Full Council would be asked for permission to cover this element of the expenditure from General Reserves pending receipt of funds.

It was agreed that there would be two propositions to Full Council. Firstly, to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to authorise the remaining expenditure and secondly to use funds from General Reserves if required to cover any shortfall until the grants were received.

9. Dignity at Work Policy

The draft Dignity at Work Policy as recommended by NALC and SLCC was considered by Councillors and approved as drawn. There will be a proposition to Full Council to adopt it.

10. Propositions to Full Council

There are propositions to Full Council as referred to in 8 (two propositions) and 9.

The meeting was then closed by the Mayor.

Note: The next meeting on 27th September 2022 will start at 7.15 pm to allow the Town Clerk to attend the WCC presentation on Levelling Up in Warwickshire.