

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on  
Tuesday 12 October 2021**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs J Patterson, R Brook, N Denby, G Turner, M Blanshard, P Flinders & Baskeyfield

**IN ATTENDANCE:** C Wadsworth, Clerk to the Council

**21/001 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**21/002 Open Session**

There were no members of the public present

**21/003 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr McKerchar and Cllr Carr.

**RESOLVED** that the reasons for absence were accepted. Cllrs Hellewell & Simpson were absent.

**21/004 Admission of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that there were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

**21/005 Reserves Policy Progress**

Cllr Brook referred to the extract from the council's business plan on Monetary Reserves, reminding councillors that the high level of reserves were initially in response to the council taking on a number of new activities including the Council building and its running costs, the full salary of the countryside officer, the Countryside project, GDPR, and the possible uptake of any grants unable to apply for grants through the closure of the Kirklees Area Committee. Following advice, it was subsequently agreed to reduce the level of reserves to £300k in stages over 2/3 years.

Cllr Brook also noted that the Business Plan was for 2018-2023 and would therefore need reviewing next year.

**21/006 Budget Outturn 2020/2021**

Budget Outturn – Cllr Brook referred to the budget outturn and reminded councillors of the decision at last March's meeting to look more closely at budget lines with an underspend/no spend. He noted that at each audit, external auditors referred to the council's high level of reserves and that each year of underspend would 'top up' the reserves. This would form part of the discussions for the November F&GP meeting when the draft budget was recommended to the Full Council. He noted that if any budget line subsequently needed further funds, specified amounts could be vired from reserves to the budget line.

The meeting looked in detail at the following budget lines: Salaries, Stationery, GDPR, CAB, Annual Allowance, Small Grants, Schools Grants, Allotments, Countryside Project and Climate Emergency Fund.

**21/007 Budget 2022/23**

Cllr Brook noted that at the November FGP, councillors would need to draw up a draft budget to present to the Full Council in December. In January a precept was to be agreed to be submitted to Kirklees Council. Normally this involved more than one option linked to the aim of reducing the level of reserves. It was noted that the Community Infrastructure Levy didn't have an impact on last year's budgeting and it was necessary to find out if it would impact next year.

**21/008 Grant Application for Pigs in the Woods**

**RESOLVED** that a grant would not be due to the application not clearly meeting the council's guidelines for applications, and due to the concerns of councillors over the overall lack of disability access across the site.

**21/009 Orders for Payment**

**RESOLVED** that orders for payment number 791 totalling £1987.43 be approved for payment

**21/010 Date of next F&GP meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for xx November 2021

**Signed..... CHAIR**