



Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & Strategy Committee held in the Bonvalot Room at the Downton Memorial Centre on Monday 28th October 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Brentor (Chair) and Cllrs Cornell, Hall, Pearce and Roberts.
Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Three members of the public were present.

01.19 To elect a Chair for the Committee for 2019/20:

Cllr Pearce proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Brentor be elected Chair of the Committee for 2019/20.

The Clerk expressed her concern about the newly elected chair also being a rotating Chair of the Council, the Chair of the Amenities Committee and the lead on the majority of the Council's Working Groups. She advised that having one councillor as the chair of the majority of the Council's committees and working groups was in itself a risk to the smooth running of the Council.

02.19 To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Brentor advised that apologies had been received from Cllr Mace.

03.19 Declarations of Interest:

- a. **To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.**

Cllr Pearce declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Memorial Centre as she was a Trustee.

- b. **To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:**

The Clerk advised that no dispensation requests had been received.

04.19 To consider any additional changes to the revised Financial Regulations issued by the National Association of Local Councils and to resolve to recommend to the Parish Council that they be approved:

Following a discussion, Cllr Hall proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that recommendations be made to the Parish Council that the identified changes be approved to reflect the fact that the Council did not have a permanent chair.

05.19 To consider any additional changes to the Risk Registers drafted by the Clerk and to resolve to recommend to the Parish Council that they be approved:

Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair that the registers be accepted by the Parish Council with a number of minor amendments

which the Clerk agreed to undertake prior to the Council meeting on 11th November 2019.

06.19 To review the existing 3 year Strategic Plan and to resolve to agree items which should continue to be included in the revised strategy: Following a detailed review and suggested changes, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that they be approved.

07.19 To consider items and ideas for the Parish Council's new 3 year Strategic Plan together with potential costs: Following a discussion, Cllr Hall proposed, Cllr Cornell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following additional items be added to the Plan:

- Downton in Bloom – the sum to be agreed at the budget meeting.
- Refurbishment of the Memorial Gardens – to be taken from reserves.
- Activities to address anti-social behaviour – An event for young people up to a budget of £3,500 which would coincide with the re-launch of the Moot Lane Recreation Ground.
- Refurbishment of the Public Toilets - £10,000.

08.19 To identify any proposals which require additional research and to resolve to agree on allocating key tasks to members: Following a brief discussion, Cllr Hall agreed to investigate the potential costs for the refurbishment of the public toilets and Cllr Cornell agreed to investigate the cost of a skatepark event.

09.19 To resolve to agree a plan for the ways in which residents will be consulted on the 3 year Strategic Plan: Following a discussion, Cllr Cornell proposed, Cllr Pearce seconded and it was RESOLVED that a consultation be held with residents through an article in the InDownton Newsletter and through social media.

10.19 To consider requesting resident participation as co-opted members and agree a process for approaching potential members: Following a discussion, Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that resident participation could be undertaken during a future Parish Council open day or community safety day.

11.19 To resolve to agree the date for the next meeting: Cllr Brentor proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that no date for a future meeting be agreed at this time.