

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting held on Thursday 20th July 2023

For the papers discussed at the meeting, please see the [Meeting Agenda of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 20th July 2023](#)

PRESENT	Committee members:	Cllr R Douglas - Chair Cllr C Booth – Deputy Chair Cllr R Brittan Cllr M Edwardson Cllr A Holland (Left at 9.00pm) Cllr H Pearce Cllr L Wardlaw Cllr R Walton
	Non-Committee member:	Cllr D Brown (Left after item 8.7) Cllr A Martin Cllr S Firkin Cllr S Radcliffe (Left after item 8.7)
	Ex-Officio Members:	Cllr K Wesley– Deputy Mayor

Also present:

Congleton Town Council Officers:

- J Macarthur– Deputy Chief Officer
- S Van Schepdael – RFO
- 3 Members of the Public

Councillor Jean Parry

The Chair opened the meeting by paying tribute to Councillor Jean Parry, a former Vice Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee, who sadly passed away in June 2023.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Akers Smith and E Hall

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

FAP/01/2324 RESOLVED to note and sign the minutes of the [Finance & Policy Committee held on 23rd March 2023](#).

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr R Walton declared an interest in items 8.7 as a trustee, (left the room during decision making) and item 8.8.

Cllr K Wesley declared an interest in item 8.7 as a trustee (Left the room during decision making)

Cllr S Firkin declared an interest in item 8.2 as a trustee of the Museum.

Cllrs D Brown and L Wardlaw declared an interest on any matters relating to Cheshire East Council.

4. Outstanding Actions

Grant Policy review, which was presented in item 14.

5. Questions from Members of the Public

Question from Congleton Climate Action Group:

In respect of decarbonising the town hall, has consideration been given to the council's finances? Real benefit can be gained by switching to a sustainable more ethical bank that doesn't invest in fossil fuels. (The group also supplied a switching website to check alternative Green banks)

The RFO responded by saying that the Green switching website was checked and on initial investigations all 4 banks that the site suggested are not banks that we could work with either by not offering Business Current accounts or not accepting un-incorporated bodies. The RFO also added that there is more to consider as not all banks accept un-incorporated bodies, but agreed to look into this if committee agreed.

6. Urgent Items

There were none.

7. Grant Approvals and Commitments

FAP/02/2324 RESOLVED to receive a statement showing the current position as at 31st May 2023.

8. New Applications for Financial Assistance

FAP/03/2324 RESOLVED to award the following grants:

- 8.1 GR01/2324-Congleton Bath House & Physic Garden: **£150**
- 8.2 GR02/2324-Congleton Museum: **£750**
- 8.3 GR03/2324-Girl Guiding North West: **£150 per guide (2 Guides)**
- 8.4 GR04/2324-SOL Theatre School: **£525**
- 8.5 GR05/2324-Daisy's Dream – Cheshire East: **Deferred.**
- 8.6 GR07/2324-Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (2 Application forms): **£2,475 (£527 from Grant Budget £1948 from balance Ukraine EMR (Recommended Council to approve use of EMR)).**
- 8.7 GR08/2324-Congleton Pride: **£360**
- 8.8 GR10/2324-The Old Saw Mill: **Declined.**
- 8.9 GR11/2324- Congleton Harriers: **£750**

- 8.10 GR12/2324-Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre: **£1000**

9. New Grant Activities Monitoring Forms

FAP/04/2324 RESOLVED to receive the New Grant Activities Monitoring Forms from:

- 9.1 GR06/2223- Trinity Amateur Operatic Society
- 9.2 GR16/2122- Mossley Old School Trust
- 9.3 GR05/2223- Congleton Heritage & Antiques Fair

10. Management Accounts

FAP/05/2324 RESOLVED to receive and approve the Management Accounts for year ending 31st March 2023 and to 31st May 2023.

11. Bank Reconciliation

FAP/06/2324 RESOLVED to receive the bank reconciliation as at 31st May 2023.

12. Savings Account Balances

FAP/07/2324 RESOLVED to receive the Savings Account update and balances for year ending 31st March 2023 and to 31st May 2023.

13. List of Payments

FAP/08/2324 RESOLVED to receive and approve the Payments lists 1st February to 31st March 2023 and 1st April to 31st May 2023.

8.50pm: FAP/09/2324: After a vote In accordance with Standing Order Reference point 3.x, Committee resolved to continue the meeting once the 2 hours limit had been reached. All voted in favour to continue.

14. Grant Criteria Policy Update

FAP/10/2324 RESOLVED to approve the updates to the Grant Criteria Policy, and recommended the updates to Council for approval and adoption into the Constitution, with amendments:

- 1: Maximum grant award of £1,000 with Committee discretion
- 2: Update Citizens Grant to Individual Grant
- 3: Look at simplifying application form for lower grant amounts, delegated to officers.

15. ICT Policy Update

FAP/11/2324 RESOLVED to approve the updates to the ICT Policy, and recommended the updates to Council for approval and adoption into the Constitution, with amendments:

1: Training to be compulsory

16. Supplier Invoices

FAP/12/2324 RESOLVED to:

1. Approve payment of invoice 64001494 for £6,530 from The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire which is costs for PCSO funding for quarter 4 of 2022-2023.
2. To note payment made of £7,768.58 which was to pay for Critical Illness for the 2023-2024 financial year.

17. Budget Virement Request

FAP/13/2324 RESOLVED to approve the Virement request and recommend this to Council on 10th August 2023 for approval.

18. Terms of Reference from Working Groups feeding into this Committee

FAP/14/2324 RESOLVED to approve the Terms of Reference for the Regeneration Working Group.

19. Investment Signatories

FAP/15/2324 RESOLVED to approve that the agreed new signatories are for used for the CCLA and Cambridge & Counties investment accounts.

**Cllr Robert Douglas
(Chair)
Meeting closed at 9:14pm.**