



**Minutes of Finance and Policy Executive held in the Bridgwater Room
on Monday 8 January 2024 at 13:00**

Councillors: Brian Smedley, Dave Loveridge, Jacqui Solomon, Kathy Pearce (13:07), Liz Marsh, Mick Lerry and Tim Mander

Officers: David Mears – Town Clerk, Lorna Williams – Democratic Services Officer.

There were no members of the public or press present.

FEC2024/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

RESOLVED: Apologies were received from Cllr Hubble who had work commitments

FEC2024/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

No Declarations were received.

FEC2024/3 MINUTES To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and Policy Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 November 2023 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2023 be signed as a correct record.

FEC2024/4 TO NOTE THE ACTION LIST

RESOLVED: Noted



FEC2024/5 TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS THE DRAFT BUDGET (AWAITING STREET CLEANING FIGURES) FOR 2024/25.

Please note staffing items of the budget will be discussed under agenda item FEC2024/7

- The meeting heard that Somerset Council was to have a budget increase of 9.9%. Somerset Council would no longer be funding Community Grants - the paper on this will be emailed to Councillors.
- The Clerk brought to the attention of meeting each budget item that had been annotated. There was some discussion regarding the amount in budget for fireworks. The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of a laser display.
- The Clerk went on to say that an allowance will be introduced to Town Councillors. It has to be the same amount for everyone although the mayor can claim double. These allowances must be published on our website.
- An audit on the location of Defibrillators is to be carried out.
- Councillors requested that they receive the footfall figures and this should be an agenda item on the to be newly formed Community Committee.
- The meeting requested that the Clerk share the list of Council Tax figures for Somerset – per month comparisons would be helpful.

RESOLVED: the Draft Budget was noted

FEC2024/6 RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC To agree that agenda item FEC2024/7 be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 196

RESOLVED: To exclude members of the press and public

FEC2024/7 TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS THE DRAFT BUDGET - STAFFING AND TUPE COSTS (awaiting street cleaning figures, job evaluations and benchmarking)

RESOLVED: The draft budget for staffing and TUPE costs were noted.

FEC2024/8 TO RECEIVE THE ORGANISATIONAL STAFFING REVIEW REPORT FOR BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

and to discuss and consider the adoption of the 12 recommendations contained therein.

It was requested to use different colours for each Directorate on the proposed Staffing Structure



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RESOLVED: To adopt the recommendations within the report

FEC2024/9 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Monday 19th February

RESOLVED: To note the date change of the next meeting to be 19 February 2024

The Chairman closed the meeting at **14:00**

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Signed.....

Dated.....