

DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held by Video Conference on Tuesday, 14th April 2020 at 18:30hrs

PRESENT: Cllr Alan Knape – Chair

Councillors

Lynn Jones
Lynne Taylor
Ted Nicholl
Mark Wesley
Katie Thurston
Mike Arnold

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Jewell – Chief Officer (CO)
Sarah Fox – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)
Mel Bland – Operations Officer (OO)

0 Members of the Public
0 Members of the Press

OPEN FORUM

None.

FP2005.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received.

FP2005.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest declared.

FP2005.3 MINUTES

RESOLVED:	That the Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meetings held on Monday 9 th March 2020, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.
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FP2005.4 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (ELECTION OF CHAIR) – SCHEDULED 18th MAY 2020.

The Chief Officer advised members had granted powers for Councils to hold virtual meetings to facilitate effective and transparent decision making on the delivery of services, therefore as this Finance and Policy Meeting was the Council's first virtual meeting, it negated the resolution for the delegation of authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Finance and Policy Committee and the decision relating to the Annual Town Meeting could be referred to a Virtual Town Council meeting.

Cllr Lynne Taylor concurred and emphasised the importance of holding the Annual Town Meeting, as previously scheduled, on 18th May 2020 to elect the Chair and resolve business as detailed in the Council's standing orders.



Members considered the options and concurred that as the Council was able to facilitate virtual meetings, a meeting of Council should be convened to consider the schedule of future meetings, and the Annual Town meeting and it was

RESOLVED:	That a Virtual Meeting of Town Council be convened on Monday 27 th April 2020, to ascertain the feasibility of future Town Council meetings and approve a virtual meeting schedule.
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FP2005.5 ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY (PARISH MEETING) – SCHEDULED 25TH APRIL 2020.

Members concurred that further to the advice from Public Health England the meeting would have been suspended until such time that government guidance permitted it to proceed, and it was

RESOLVED:	That the Annual Town Assembly be suspended pending further review following the lifting of public gathering restrictions by central government.
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FP2005.6 COVID-19

The Chief Officer advised that all Officers were continuing to work from home and provided an update on all areas of the Council's operations;

Museum – work was continuing in relation to a project to provide an online virtual tour of the current exhibition together with research being done by the museum volunteers for the next exhibition.

Market – although the market was closed, traders were offering delivery services to Daventry residents, which was being promoted via Daventry Market facebook page.

Allotments – Continue to remain open in line with government guidelines, to safeguard allotment holders and encourage social distancing and awareness of the need to sanitize communal infrastructure (locks and gates).

Welton Road Cemetery – Gates are now open 24/7 and burials are to be conducted as per the government guidelines.

Events – all events had been cancelled up to Food Festival in September. The bunting was due to be installed next week, and that the company completing the installation would be working in line with the government's guidelines for social distancing. The cost of the installation had been included in the budget and all members agreed the installation should continue, to encourage positivity in the current negative environment.

#NorthantsTogether – A newly established support centre had been established and officers from the Town Council were working with officers from the District Council to create a facility to enable the delivery of support to vulnerable people in Daventry District.

FP2005.7 TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES FROM DAVENTRY DISTRICT COUNCIL TO DAVENTYR TOWN COUNCIL.

The Chief Officer advised that the planned date for the transfer of the 1st April 2020 did not happen as additional work was needed in relation to clauses within leases that needed to be reviewed agreed and amended. It was hoped the transfer would be completed by the 1st May 2020.

