KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee
Held at Exeter Hall on Thursday 14 March 2024 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Lesley Mclean (Chair), Cllr David Robey, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Linda Ward, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Nik Soheili, Cllr David Betts, Cllr David Thurling.

In attendance: Rachel Faulkner (Clerk), Alyson Bateman (RFO)

Apologies: Cllr Alan Graham**,** Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Ian Middleton

1. **To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.** No Councillors had anything to declare.

2. **Public Participation –** to receive questions and comments from members of the public relating to items on the agenda. There were no members of the public present.

24/PF077 **Minutes –** to confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting of 18 January 2024 and 29 February 2024, the amended minutes of 18 January were approved and signed. Approval of the minutes of 29 February was deferred. It was agreed that no further discussion regarding consultation on new double yellow lines would be undertaken by either this Committee or TAC.

24/PF078 **Committee Structure** This item was moved to earlier in the agenda to enable all councillors to take part. Councillors discussed the proposal put forward by Cllr McLean and agreed that creating a Finance and Assets Committee was a good idea although some members felt that playgrounds and burial grounds should remain within the Community Committee remit. It was suggested that, although the budget would be agreed by the Finance committee, S137 Grant Applications should be considered by the Community Committee. It was suggested that the new committee to replace the Planning Committee would incorporate strategy, place making and include policy. This committee would have an overview of larger application and strategies. It was agreed that Cllr McLean would work with the Clerk to amend the proposal to put to full Council on 28 March in order to implement in May.

24/PF079 **Calendar of Meetings 2024 – 25**
As the Committee structure is yet to be finalised it was suggested that Finance & Assets Committees would be held on the same dates as the existing Policy and Finance meetings. The new Strategy and Planning committee would take the place of the existing Planning meetings although Cllr McLean wished to change the dates of these meetings to better fit with the CDC cycle of planning meetings.
It was agreed that all agendas would be sent via email to all Councillors in future regardless of whether they sit on the committee.

24/PF080 **To Consider S137 Grant Application:**

a **Cherwell Collective –** Grant application was received for 100% discount on facility hire of Main Hall and Kitchen for weekly use on a Thursday plus 12 Fridays and 2 Saturdays with effect from 1 April 2024 was discussed and

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Councillors **RESOLVED** to offer a discount of 60% of the hire costs for the proposed dates and times. A total discount of £14,223.

b **Community Bingo –** The group were unable to provide full accounts at this time but did provide a current bank statement. The committee felt able to accept this supporting documentation and **RESOLVED** to continue to support the use of the hall by allowing a grant of £55 (one hours rent) in order to continue as per the present arrangement.

Cllr Betts left the meeting at 7.15pm

24/PF081 **Matters arising from meeting of Community Committee 7 March 2024**

a) Installation of a water trough at Blenheim Road allotment as a water saving measure at a cost of £3,246 - **RESOLVED**

b) Exeter Hall Foyer lighting and Safety Handrail installation to be funded via the Exeter Hall EMR - **RESOLVED**

24/PF082 **Councillor Training**

The committee discussed induction training for new councillors. The new councillors agreed that they had received useful training from the Clerk when they joined the council. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have some kind of mentoring programme where new councillors could buddy up with long standing members to better understand some of the processes. Cllr McLean agreed to meet with some of the newer Cllrs to discuss and will bring forward suggestions as necessary.

24/PF083 **Insurance renewal**

The Committee **noted** the Insurance premium for 2024-25 of £12,094.71

The dates of the next meeting will be: 25 April 2024

Meeting closed at: 7.50pm

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