

NEATH TOWN COUNCIL – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of the hybrid Meeting held on Thursday, 25th January 2024 at 6pm

Present: Cllr. Mrs S. Price (Chair), Cllr. T. Pearson (Vice Chair), Cllr. R. Price, Cllr. M. Protheroe, Cllr. J. Warman (Kathryn Charles - Town Clerk, Sara Wharmby - Admin Assistant)

Absent: Cllr. Ms M. P. Lloyd, Cllr. P. Sambrook

In attendance: Cllr. J. Miller

F2024/1 To accept apologies for absence from Members
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. K. Finn, Cllr. A. Musaied, Cllr. Mrs J. L. Lockyer

F2024/2 To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct
There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

F2024/3 To review Quarterly Budget Monitoring report
Members had received the report prior to the Meeting.

The Town Clerk stated that Nominal Codes would be clustered as some headings could be identified under one code and needed more 'tidying up'. The Town Clerk outlined areas of over/underspend and this is where the clustering of nominal codes would help provide more clarity on each position. Members were content with the explanations given. Members did not identify any major areas of concern as there was still a quarter of the financial year to go.

F2024/4 To review and agree Income & Expenditure movement for the month :-
a. Bills awaiting payment - Agreed.
b. BACs payment schedule - Agreed. (One handwritten supplier payment was explained).
c. Barclays general account – receipts and payments - Agreed.
d. Inter-bank transfers - None.
e. New supplier BACs authorisation forms - None.
f. Payroll overview - Agreed.
g. Bank statement reconciliation – Agreed

F2024/5 To review and consider Planning Applications
There were no objections to the following planning applications received.

P2024/0003 – Nationwide Building Society – 2 Queen Street, Neath, SA11 1EB
P2023/0897 – Nicola Pearce, The Quays – Neath Welsh Primary School, Woodland Road, Neath, SA11 3AL
P2024/0012 - Mr Tavis Knoyle – Unit 0, Quay Road, Neath, SA11 1SN
P2024/0014 – Head of Property and Regeneration, The Quays – Gnoll Estate Country Park, Fairyland, Neath, SA11 3BS
P2024/0022 – Daniel Pilcher – Street Record Nightingale Park Footway, Cimla, SA11 3RX
P2024/0041 – J. Melly – 1B Alfred Street, Neath, SA11 1EF

F2024/6 To receive items for the next Agenda from Members
There were no items received for the next Agenda.

F2024/7 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS – To consider passing a resolution under the provisions of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are excluded from the remainder of the meeting
The resolution was duly passed.

F2024/8 To discuss and review any correspondence received relating to Finance

J. Warman
01/02/2024

Additional Correspondence received for information

An email from Michelle Akerman at NPTCBC regarding the potential lease at Orchard Street.

F2024/9 To receive the Clerk's Report on issues relating to Investment Properties or Commercial Contracts

Members discussed an email regarding the 1-4 New Street property. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to agree the request in principle and put it to Full Council.

Members were updated on a Town Hall property that wanted to replicate the signs that had previously been installed. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the request, providing it was within CADW and NPTCBC's Planning legislation. **ACTION:** Tenant to take this forward for approvals. The Town Clerk updated the Meeting on the damage to the external wall by the tenant with a banner and reminded members that quotes for repair work were being sourced.

Members had received an email regarding an arrears situation for a property on Green Street. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to allow them an extended timeframe up to mid-May for payment, as they had outlined in their payment plan and if not received, proceed to claim unpaid rent via the Courts.

Members were updated on the water installation at 1-4 New Street which had not been completed however the contractors had also caused damage to the property. The Town Clerk had relayed NTCs disappointment of the damage and expected it to be rectified. Welsh Water confirmed that they would arrange for a site engineer to review the works and repair it as soon as possible.

The Town Clerk informed Members that a tenant had requested a change of name on their lease and provided the background to the request. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed that if NTCs property agents were happy with the request and their fees would be covered by the tenant, Members would allow the change of name.

The Town Clerk stated that they had received a request from Barclays Bank regarding leasing a space to use as a 'Hub' for the facility. Members were informed that they were interested in leasing Neath Community Centre and had requested installing a partition for privacy. Members agreed it was a service that was needed in the community and would support keeping the bank if it stopped/delayed it from closing in Neath. Various operational issues were raised which would need consideration. The Town Clerk stated there would be associated costs to install the partitioned wall/area and digital screen which would need consideration. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed to get clarity on what style of partition was needed and to obtain overall costs. The Town Clerk asked for clarity in that the community hall would then transfer (or switch sides) to the old 'café' area as this was a popular hall and would still be requested. **RESOLVED:** This was agreed by Members and the old serving area would be removed. Members identified that the café area was larger than the community hall which would give hall users more space.


F2024/10 To fix a date for the next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, 15th February 2024. An agenda would be circulated in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____


01/02/2024