

**Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held
on 17th July 2023 in the Council Chamber, The Old Courthouse,
Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea at 7 pm**

Present: Councillors G Gudka (Chair), R Baker, P Clayton, M Facey, R Keen, A Matthews, S Perry, C Searing, B Vickers

In attendance: K Noble (Town Clerk) and N Brookes (RFO)

Public Participation – There were 4 members of the public present. No representations were made.

49.0.F23 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Elrick.

50.0.F23 To receive any declarations of interest on items included on this agenda

There were no declarations of interests.

51.0.F23 To receive and approve the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 5th June 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee, held on 5th June 2023, were presented by the Chairman.

(2 members of the public joined the meeting at this juncture)

Resolved that the minutes be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

52.0.F23 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

53.0.F23 To receive for information minutes of sub-committees

The Chair of the HR Sub Committee informed Members that the Theatre Manager and Marketing and Programme Officer job vacancies had been advertised.

54.0.F23 Chairman's report

The Chairman advised Members that a meeting was scheduled with Somerset Council regarding the relocation of the office.

The Chairman welcomed Nicole Brookes, who had been appointed as the Responsible Finance Officer. The RFO then gave a short biography.



55.0.F23 To receive the list of payments up to 8th July 2023

The list of payments attached to these minutes were noted and no queries were raised.

56.0.F23 Verbal update on changes to accounting system

The Clerk advised the Committee that the relaunch of the accounts was being undertaken this week and some issues had been raised during the process.

The accounts would have a clean starting point and will be far less complex going forward.

57.0.F23 To consider quotations and award electricity contract for Princess Theatre

A lengthy discussion regarding agenda items 57 - 60 took place before each item was voted on separately. A broker had obtained three quotes for each contract, apart from the electricity for the Princess Theatre due to an issue with the meter and difficulties in transferring to another supplier. Several queries had been raised including the green tariffs meaning. there were some concerns about paying additional costs for green energy, but the Council has declared a climate emergency. Some questions could not be answered, so it was agreed that only 12 month contracts should be considered at this point. The increase in charges had been accounted for during the budget process.

Resolved that a 12 month contract be awarded to Pozitive Energy at a cost of approximately £20,698 per annum.

58.0.F23 To consider quotations and award electricity contract for The Old Courthouse

(1 member of the public joined the meeting at this juncture)

Resolved that a 12 month contract be awarded to Pozitive Energy at a cost of approximately £1,623 per annum.

59.0.F23 To consider quotations and award the gas contract for the Princess Theatre and The Old Courthouse

Councillor Vickers proposed the contract be award to SSE Green for 12 months and this was seconded by Councillor Gudka, but failed at the vote.

Resolved that a 12 month contract be awarded to Pozitive Energy at a cost of approximately £13,254.60.

60.0.F23 To consider quotations and award electricity contract for Brent Road Cemetery

Resolved that a 12 month contract be awarded to EON Next at a cost of approximately £888.00 per annum.



61.0.F23 To ratify decision to appoint a grass cutting contractor

Resolved that the recommendation by the HR Sub Committee to appoint a contractor to cut and strim the grass at the cemeteries for 2 days per week over a 3 month period at a cost of £6,875.34 is approved. A recommendation is made to Council to approve a virement from the salaries and wages budget to the professional and consultant fees budget to cover the cost.

62.0.F23 To appoint 2 Members to undertake the quarterly internal checks

Resolved that Councillors Gudka and Matthews are appointed to undertake the internal checks for the ensuing year.

63.0.F23 To consider funding allocation for the Eco-festival

Resolved that the request for £1,500 to be used from the Climate and Ecology budget to support the Eco Festival on 30th September is approved.

64.0.F23 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee will be held on 4th September 2023 at 7 pm.