



Bargoed Town Council

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Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting 1st March 2023

Present: Councillors R Carroll; P Collins; T Williams; J Davies; C Andrews.

Also in Attendance: Mrs H Williams, Town Clerk.

Meeting Chairman: Councillor Reg Carroll

1. Apologies for Absence
Councillor J Bissex (sick); Councillor H Llewellyn (appointment); Councillor D Ingram-Jones (holiday).
2. To receive Declaration of Interests or dispensations on any item(s) on this Agenda, if appropriate.
No declarations received.
3. Press and Public Participation Session.
No enquiries received by the clerk.
4. To receive, approve and sign Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee 1st February 2023.
Councillor Collins moved; Councillor Davies seconded. The committee RESOLVED to instruct the chair to sign the minutes.
5. To review, approve and sign bank reconciliations and payment lists.
RESOLVED to approve the January and February 2023 bank reconciliations and approve the payments list.
6. To approve IT equipment and service quotations in respect of replacement laptop and network at town hall.
RESOLVED to approve laptop quotation ref 00002 for laptop and caddy equipment, £810 (net) expenditure authorised. Members rejected the network proposal opting to investigate alternative options themselves. The committee instructed the clerk to liaise with the IT contractor to negotiate for the inclusion of training workshops to be detailed in the service level agreement and advise of an in principle decision to accept the proposal for a period of one year at a cost of £175 per month. Clerk instructed to make representations about the installation and configuration fee on quotation 00002.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ P&R committee minutes

7. To receive a verbal report from the clerk in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme and approve allocation of funds.

The clerk provided members with electronic documents detailing the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund Triennial Actuarial Valuation as at 31st March 2022 and subsequent draft employer results for Bargoed Town Council explaining a potential change in employer contribution rates to 21.5% with effect from April 2023, and a £5,000 per annum top up for secondary employer contributions as a result of the low valuation.

The clerk provided detail of investigations being carried out between CCBC, the pensions manager at TCBC and herself regarding an arrangement put in place in 2009/10 for employer contribution rates to be paid at the same rate as CCBC. The assumption being that if this arrangement is able to continue then the employer contributions rate will in the range of 19.9%.

The clerk advised she had requested an update earlier this week but had no additional information to report at this time. A recommendation was made to the committee to consider earmarking £5,000 of the remaining all risks contingency budget to assist in meeting the additional cost should it become necessary for Bargoed Town Council pension fund to become stand alone as per the actuarial valuation.

The committee discussed the situation at some length and RESOLVED to instruct the clerk to continue to liaise with relevant officers to try and reach a positive conclusion to the matter of the arrangement with CCBC, but in the meantime the prudent action is to earmark £5,000 contingency funds for this purpose.

This concluded the business on the agenda. The meeting closed at 18.05pm