

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY 28TH MAY 2024

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH MAY 2024 AT 5:15PM IN THE COURT ROOM AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

- PRESENT:** Councillor P Joyce (Town Mayor)
Councillor J Birch (Deputy Mayor)
- COUNCILLORS:** J Alwahabi, S Hibbert, A Kilbride, J Lane, L Marriott, M McNicholas, T Miah, B Purser, C Russell, A Stevens, and W Tarasiewicz.
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr S Carter (Town Clerk), Mrs C Maclellan (Responsible Finance Officer) and Miss F Barford (Democratic Services Officer)

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Holland-Delamere.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENT TIME:

No public statements or questions had been submitted.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

13. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/2024

The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) introduced the Annual Governance Statement and Annual return. She explained the AGAR was legally required to be completed annually at the end of each financial year by local councils and needs to be independently verified by the auditor who reviews the Council's accounts. The Town Clerk explained the internal auditor had completed her audit and as a result the Annual Governance Return. The RFO added the internal auditor found the Council's accounts and bookkeeping in good order.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance statement be received, approved and that the Mayor be authorised to sign it.

14. TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2023/24

The RFO presented the Final Accounts, for the financial year ending 2023-24 as part of the AGAR.

Councillor Marriott stated that the Town Council had reserves, general reserves amounting to approximately £1 million. This equated to 8 months' worth of expenditure, ensuring continuity of service in the rare event that the precept could not be paid. The RFO highlighted the earmarked reserves had been done with purpose, she also highlighted the uncertainty with the Council's accommodation.

A Councillor inquired whether any forecasting had been done regarding the potential transfer of Moulton Leys into Moulton Parish Council's boundary area. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) stated that this had not been done but would be considered, noting that current budget forecasts indicate that reserves would be depleted by year 10 at the current levels of income and expenditure.

RESOLVED: That the Final Accounts for Financial Year 2023 - 2024 be received and approved.

RESOLVED: That the Accounting Statement as detailed within the AGAR be approved, accepted and that the Mayor be authorised to sign it.

MEETING CONCLUDED: 17:24