



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Special Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13th January 2020 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston at 18:45.

PRESENT: Councillors J Gunston, G Mathias, R McElroy (Chairman), E Linton, S Toney and S Wilkinson

ALSO: Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

Councillor P Gander

The meeting opened at 18:47.

The meeting had been called as a Special Meeting solely to consider the creation of a council Business Plan. Cllr Gander attended as the Chairman of the Personnel Committee. The Chairmen of the council's other committees were in attendance as members of this committee.

022/20 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

All committee members were present.

023/20 PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No Personal or Prejudicial / Pecuniary Interests were declared.

024/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

025/20 COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN

For several months, the council had been considering writing a Business Plan but had little had taken place to date owing to some confusion about the objectives and content of such a plan. This evening's meeting was solely to discuss the idea further, to agree to a way forward, and to bring all committee chairmen on board with the contributions they may be needed to make to the idea.

Cllr Wilkinson said he had looked at a variety of Business Plans (mostly called Council Plans) for other councils, councils of all different sizes. The Plans were equally of all different sizes ranging from single pages to hefty documents. Taking his lead from those plans, Cllr Wilkinson recommended the council aimed at a top-of-the-range Plan and, with that in mind, he had drawn up an initial list of topics he felt needed to be included in the council's Plan.

Not surprisingly, the better plans showed evidence of community involvement in the Plan. The committee AGREED a draft would be good to discuss with members of the public at the annual Come and Meet Your Local Council event in June.

The committee ACCEPTED Cllr Wilkinson's offer to lead on writing an initial Business Plan. Generally, the committee felt Council Plan was a better title. Cllr Wilkinson said the majority of plans he had found were called Council Plans.

Cllr Wilkinson asked committee chairs to provide him with information on their short- and medium-term plans and also some highlights from recent years. Some information on achievements over the past four years were included in the Chairman's Annual Report which had been published in the Spring 2019 Newsletter. Short descriptions of the roles of each committee were published on the website and in the Parish Council section of the East Preston Official Guide.

The Plan would sit as a constant reference point for the council's deliberations and actions. Once published it would need to be reviewed regularly. There was general agreement the Plan should be a rolling plan showing updates and changes to the council's priorities.

The committee felt the form used at Come and Meet Your Local Councillors events could be adapted this year to be more in line with the content of the Business / Council Plan.

Cllr Gunston referred to the Quedgeley Town Council Business Plan 2017-2020 which made effective use of red-amber-green marking to denote progress.

The meeting AGREED there should be clear reference to the council wishing to retain local facilities such as recreational space and the library.

The committee also AGREED there were matters in the village upon which the council's influence was limited, for example the Roundstone Level Crossing, but the Plan could include reference to the council's willingness to lobby alongside local residents on such matters.

026/20 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (17TH FEBRUARY)

Nothing was suggested.

The Meeting closed at 19:40.

Chairman: *Cllr Steven Wilkinson*

Date: **17th February 2020**