

# LATIMER AND LEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Adopted: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Objective: The Finance Committee has an overview of the Council's finances, assets, risks and staffing, including contractors, and makes recommendations to Council on these matters.

### **Membership**

- 1) Membership of the Finance Committee is established at the Annual Parish Meeting in May each year.
- 2) The Finance Committee comprises up to three members, including the Clerk of the Council, and two other Councillors.
- 3) One of the members of the Finance Committee is elected annually by the Parish Council as its chairman.
- 4) Co-opted Councillors may join during the year if authorised by the Parish Council at a monthly meeting of the Council.
- 5) Members from outside bodies may be invited to join the Committee. These persons do not have a right to vote or to move or second a motion (as per Standing Orders).

### **Meetings**

- 6) Meetings of the Finance Committee shall be held at least twice a year. Meetings normally take place prior to the main Parish Council meetings in May and October.
- 7) The quorum for the Finance and Personnel Committee is two members.

### **Decision/Delegated Powers**

- 8) To regulate, manage and control the finance and resources of the Parish Council, including the recommendation to Parish Council of the annual budgets, precept and level of charges within the Council's Financial Regulations.
- 9) To review the expenditure on capital schemes and all budgets.
- 10) To provide guidance to Committees and Council on overall levels of income and expenditure.
- 11) To determine the level of staffing resources to the Council together with matters relating to terms and conditions of employment, and basic level of salaries.
- 12) To ensure the Council complies with all legislative requirements relating to the employment of staff.
- 13) To ensure that an adequate and effective system of internal control is in place to secure the integrity of finances and any other information.
- 14) To ensure the preservation of probity and good financial and other practices within the Council.

- 15) To consider and recommend to the Council appropriate action on all reports arising from both internal and external auditors, and to carry out any such actions agreed by the Council.
- 16) To report annually to the Council on the effectiveness of the audit process.
- 17) To scrutinise and advise the Council on any contractual undertakings, and to monitor the contract compliance for any contractors.
- 18) To take steps to identify and update key risks facing the Council (including submitting the annual risk assessment to Council), and to decide upon appropriate measures to avoid, reduce or control those risks or their consequences, including annual levels of insurance cover.
- 19) To maintain the Council's asset register, and regularly to inspect and to recommend any necessary repairs to keep the assets in a safe and sound condition.
- 20) To maintain and review the Financial Risk Management Record.
- 21) To scrutinise the Annual Return and Governance Report prior to submission to Council in May each year.
- 22) To provide regular monitoring reports to the relevant Committees on levels of income and expenditure in accordance with authorised budgets. The Committee has ultimate responsibility to ensure financial balance and probity of the Parish Council.
- 23) Developing, maintaining and monitoring the policy on the management of reserves.
- 24) Undertaking spot checks on the books of accounts and reconciling the books of accounts to the Bank Accounts.
- 25) To consider and where appropriate, authorise any requests for supplementary expenditure from spending committees.
- 26) To receive, consider and recommend to the Council, any applications for Grants from organisations which support activities and services which benefit Drayton residents, in accordance with the Parish Council's powers under current legislation.
- 27) The Committee is authorised to establish sub-committees and working groups, and to appoint advisers as and when necessary to assist in its work.