



Stanway

Parish Council

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07/24 **Minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee Meeting**
held on 9th October 2024 at 7pm in the Committee Room, Victory Hall

Present: **Cllrs Cotter (Chair), Norton & Spademan, the Clerk & RFO**

- 1. Cllr Cotter welcomed those present.** Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Baine & Hagon
- 2. Declarations of Interest – None declared**
- 3. Public Participation – None present**
- 4. APPROVED** the minutes of the Corporate Governance meeting held on 11th September 2024. The Chair signed the minutes as a true and accurate record.

- 5. Clerk’s Report ([clerks-report-corporate-governance-october-2024.pdf \(stanway-pc.gov.uk\)](#) - RECEIVED and NOTED update:**

FC 22/14 18 / CGC 10/23 9 – The neighbouring farmer will submit options to:
Farm for 1 year (Getting ready winter 2024 to sow Spring 2025/Harvest Spring 2026)
Provide a 3 year scheme (which would probably include gating the field and clearing it ready for farming)

The Clerk will also obtain a price to grass seed the area after tenure

FC 22/14 19 - September Section 106 meeting with Cllr Bentley and Colchester City Council (CCC) S106 Officer was positive in progressing Warren Lane Junction as a Strategic Colchester Junction, which could then be included in the Local Plan. CCC will advise if enough information has been provided to secure this position. A subsequent meeting with Officers and Ward Councillors will be held 8th November to discuss all Stanway S106 projects.

FC 23/11 11 - A meeting with the zoo’s planning consultant is being organised to discuss visitor numbers to feed into Warren Lane CCC discussions. The Zoo intend on submitting their replacement lion enclosure planning application before December 2024.

- 6. RFO Report ([20241009-rfo-report-to-cgc-abridged.pdf \(stanway-pc.gov.uk\)](#) – RECEIVED and NOTED:**

A half-yearly account of expenditure was provided, which was, overall on track with set budgets. A Reserves report was also provided and noted with no further action necessary.

The payment list dated 8th October 2024 was noted. The RFO highlighted 2 non-recurring transactions for playground repairs & part payment towards legal fees relating to Comb Field.

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In accordance with the Council's Investment Policy, the RFO has proposed suitable saving accounts. After discussion, it was agreed to propose changes to policy, whereby more than £ 100,000 can be invested with any one provider.

The proposed investments, subject to review and policy change, were:

<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Provider</u>	<u>Name of Account</u>	<u>Notice Period</u>
£ 100,000	Unity Bank	Fixed Term Deposit	12 months, no withdrawal
£ 100,000	Buckinghamshire BS	Saving Account	30 Day Notice
£ 100,000	Cambridge BS	Saving Account	No Notice
£*100,000 (minimum)	Unity Bank	Current Acct	No Notice

(*with any surplus/deficit transferred to/from Unity Instant Access Saver Account)

7. **CONSIDERED External auditor's report and AGREED that no further actions was necessary.** This committee also noted that, despite assurances from the PFK Littlejohn External Auditor 30th September 2024, as the RFO had provided evidence to the contrary, the AGAR, Section 3 omitted to remove their comment advising the 2022/23 notice regarding the period for the exercise of public rights was not published on the Council's website. In spite of the RFO repeatedly correcting Heelis and Lodge, The Internal Auditor, who advised this in their 2023/24 AGAR Audit Report, Heelis and Lodge did not respond or correct their report.
8. **CONSIDERED Corporate Governance's Spending Plan for 2025-26 and beyond.** Initial budgets for revenue expenditure and known capital expenditure were agreed. These will be further reviewed and refined, if necessary, in the following quarter.

Future capital projects were discussed. It was agreed to review the S106 Project List in November, alongside any other suggestions for future plans.
Current earmarked projects, such as replacement of playground equipment, were also reviewed and revised regarding replacement cost and longevity projections.
9. **Corporate Governance Review:-**
 - i) **DEFERRED** - To **CONSIDER** Publication Scheme for approval at Full Council
10. **RECEIVED** an update from the Jansma Park Working Group and **DECIDED:** £50,000 would be budgeted for Phase 1 capital expenditure in 2025/26 and £ 22,000 2026/27
11. **Information Update** – Cllr Spademan welcomed the end of North and South A12 carriageway closures due to resurfacing works between Junctions 25 &26 (Marks Tey to Stanway)
12. **RECEIVED** requests for items to be included on agendas for future meetings as follows:
 - i) This committee to consider proposed investment accounts and necessary policy review for approval by November Full Council.
 - ii) This committee to consider any new, future capital projects alongside already identified S106 projects for 2025/26 and beyond for budgeting purposes.
 - iii) This committee to consider Publication Scheme for approval at November Full Council.
13. **CONFIRMED** date and time of the next meeting as **Wednesday, 13th November 2024 at 7pm**, Committee Room, Victory Hall, Stanway Community Centre, Villa Road, Stanway
Chair closed the meeting at 8.42pm