

EMPLOYMENT, FINANCE & STRATEGY GROUP MEETING

Meeting 21st August 2025

Minutes

1. Present: Cllrs Sharp, Martin, Hotson, Perry, and Arger via Zoom. Also present Clerk and Deputy Clerk

2. Apologies for Absence Cllr Riordan

3. Dispensations - NA

4. Minutes of last meeting – minutes of agreed unanimously

5. Contracts

RFO currently no contracts for updating

Council Insurance – currently one quote in, chasing existing insurance company and other insurance companies.

Current Insurance policy ends 30th September 2025, therefore a report to and decision required on 15th September 2025 Council meeting

RFO will continue to chase quotes and bring report to Council on 15th September 2025.

6. Recording of Council meetings

The Group discussed the papers at length, included Parish Council's GDPR consultants' advice plus emails that the Clerk was copied into between MBC Monitoring officer and MBC Cllr X.

The MBC Monitoring Officer cannot advise a Parish Council but had been drawn into the issue by Cllr X.

Currently our policies focus more on a news agency filming a meeting as a whole rather than one Cllr filming another Cllr.

Recognised that everyone has the right to record meetings

- Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972,
- The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960,
- s.13 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- The Localism Act 2011

Equally, everyone has the right to withdraw consent

- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK-GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018

The information from the Council GDPR consultant and MBC Monitoring Officer confirmed that view that there is tension between the various pieces of legislation. The MBC Monitoring Officer cannot advise a Parish Council but offered a view which was consistent with actions of the Clerk so far.

Many Councils have not had to consider an individual Cllr videoing /filming other Cllrs or Staff. (Potential harassment) Many Councils now live stream their meetings. It is suggested that each Council develops a policy.

General consensus was that sound recording is not really an issue, but many people feel uncomfortable with being filmed, especially when targeted with a phone.

The current view that people are entitled to record meetings but people have the right to withdraw consent should remain until a Council policy is formalised.

Comments on draft policy

- Define recording as "sound recording, film recording or photographing"
- Ensure Parish / Borough / County Councillor is included
- That a common-sense balanced approach is taken

Cllr Perry felt the recording of meetings was important and should be allowed.

Group agreed by majority of 3 for 1 against to forward draft recording policy with amendments as discussed to KALC and the Council's GDPR consultant for comment. In addition, keep MBC Monitoring Officer in the loop.

7. SPC priorities / MBC Strategic CIL Bids process

Summary of priority responses was discussed

Only 6 Councillors responded, amend to band as fully funded, maintenance and consider allocation of Council CIL / Reserves and then recirculate

"Strategic CIL" some key points – asked if Parish Council can apply? No response yet. That other organisations may be able to apply?

Timing is an issue; application by 30th November 2025 – decision Spring 2025

Total fund is £5m – therefore MBC likely to consider larger projects

If a project already has s106 funding less likely to be supported (i.e. 3G Multi-Sport project)

Group agreed that once we know cost of 3G Multi-Sport pitch arrange a Cllr workshop.

8. 3G pitch project - verbal update

Clerk updated group latest BNG monitoring form discussed and will circulate an update to all Cllrs with a summary of BNG and emails. (sent 21.8.25)

9. Storage of Council minutes – discuss options

Group discussed and unanimously agreed a report to next Council recommending purchasing a fireproof cabinet but start scanning minutes from 1st April 2026.

10. Next Meeting 18th September 2025

HR Subgroup – Discussed minor clarifications of email sent to staff 6.8.25