

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held virtually by Zoom on Thursday, 17th December 2020 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors P Bingham, P Gane, D Jeffrey, N Keen (Chair), M Lawes, C McConville, J Meade and T Prater.

OFFICERS PRESENT: J Childs (Town Clerk) and P Cross (Finance Officer).

1367. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor R Field.

1368. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gane declared a non pecuniary interest in item 10(i) as he works in a car dealership.

All twin-hatted councillors declared a non pecuniary interest in item 9.

1369. MINUTES

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 22nd October 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 22nd October 2020 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor J Meade

Seconded: Councillor P Bingham

Voting: F:8 Ag:0, Ab:0

1370. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Committee considered the schedule of payments made between 1st October 2020 and 30th November 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st October 2020 and 30th November 2020 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor J Meade

Voting: F:8 Ag:0, Ab:0

1371. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2020/21

The budget monitoring statement to the 30th November 2020 was received by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Budget Monitoring Statement to 30th November 2020 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor P Bingham

Voting: F:8 Ag:0, Ab:0

1372. BANK RECONCILIATION

In line with financial regulations the bank reconciliation statement to 30th November 2020 was received by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the bank reconciliation statement to 30th November 2020 be noted.

Proposed: Councillor J Meade

Seconded: Councillor P Bingham

Voting: F:8 Ag:0, Ab:0

1373. CCTV & FHDC HIGH ST FUND GRANT AGREEMENT CCTV

Report F/20/276 provided an update on the Public Realm CCTV. Councillor Lawes advised Dover Road had been missed off the list and that an additional camera was needed in Harbour Way.

RESOLVED: That Report F/20/276 be received, funds be released from the CCTV reserve to meet the costs of the additional cameras and associated supplies and the Town Clerk sign the deed accepting the grant.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor C McConville

Voting: F:8 Ag:0, Ab:0

Councillor P Bingham left the meeting at this juncture.

1374. KCC COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GRANT SCHEME 2019-20

The Town Clerk had applied to the Community Transport Grant Scheme in 2019 for funding to purchase an electric minibus with disabled access, in order to set up a community bus scheme to assist with transport to the Town Hall and Museum. KCC have confirmed that they have allocated Council £77,000 but, due to the coronavirus pandemic, everything was delayed. However, they will hold the money into the 21/22 financial year if we wish to go ahead. They propose purchasing a Renault Master ZE minibus and gifting it to us.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk accept the offer of an electric minibus from Kent County Council.

Proposed: Councillor T Prater

Seconded: Councillor N Keen

Voting: F:7 Ag:0, Ab:0

1375. SMALL PARKS

Negotiations on the terms for the leases and service agreements for the small parks that FHDC propose to transfer to Council were now complete and a summary was attached. Approval was sought for the Town Clerk to sign the deeds accepting the transfers and dowry.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk sign the deeds accepting the transfers and dowry of £100,000.

Proposed: Councillor J Meade

Seconded: Councillor P Gane

Voting: F:7 Ag:0, Ab:0

1376. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- i. At the Full Council meeting of 12th November 2020, minute 1744, following discussion about the resolution from the F&GP meeting on the 22nd October 2020, minute 1364 (regarding the Civic Vehicle), that the options be considered by Finance and General Purposes Committee.

PROPOSED: That option 4 - No Civic Vehicle from April 2021 be adopted.

Proposed: Councillor T Prater

Seconded: Councillor D Jeffrey

Voting: F:2 Ag:5, Ab:0

The motion was lost.

RESOLVED: That option 1 - Nissan Leaf Hatchback leased from April 2021 be adopted.

Proposed: Councillor M Lawes

Seconded: Councillor N Keen

Voting: F:7 Ag:0, Ab:0

- ii. At the Full Council meeting held on the 12th November it was recorded at minute 1746(a), NOTICE OF MOTION that Council abolish the Grants Committee following the expenditure of the 2020/21 grants budget and replace it with a Councillor Community Grant Scheme from 2021/22 with a budget of £34,200 divided equally between the Town Councillors (i.e. £1900 each).

The Committee duly noted Council's resolution and the amendment to the budget.

- iii. At the Full Council meeting held on the 12th November it was recorded at minute 1746(f), NOTICE OF MOTION that the Community Services Committee were to set up a small working group to revisit the heritage boards that didn't get completed in the first phase of the Historical Town Trail and to create a new board consequent upon the current redevelopment

of the former Royal Victoria Hospital. Notable omissions in the first trail included the terrible Tontine Street air raid. Notable subjects for a new heritage board to cover would include stories of the hospital, and the life of Walter Tull, the mixed-race footballer and war hero, who was born and lived just east of the hospital and is little commemorated in the town. A sum of £6000 is resolved to be provisionally included in next year's budget to cover the erection of one board and to make sure that all heritage posters are made easily available online and as posters for schools, with some extra material to help Folkestone schools' study local history.

Committee duly noted Council's resolution and the amendment to the budget.

1377. WARD GRANTS

A list of ward grants approved by the Town Clerk between 1st October 2020 and 30th November 2020 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1378. WARD GRANT BALANCES 2020/21

A list of ward grant balances available to each Councillor on the 30th November 2020 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1379. CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANTS

A list of coronavirus community resilience grants approved to 30th November 2020 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1380. BUDGET 2021/22

Report F/20/275 set out the draft proposals for the Town Council's budget for 2021/22, considering proposed growth items submitted by spending committees.

RESOLVED: That any underspend in the Community Resilience Grant be rolled over to 2021/22.

Proposed: Councillor C McConville

Seconded: Councillor J Meade

Voting: F:7 Ag:0, Ab:0

RESOLVED: That a ward grant budget of £19,800 divided by electorate be added back into the 2021/22 budget.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor J Meade

Voting: F:5 Ag:1, Ab:1

RESOLVED: That £5,000 for total contribution pay be added to the 2021/22 budget as recommended by the Personnel Sub-Committee.

Proposed: Councillor N Keen

Seconded: Councillor P Gane

Voting: F:7 Ag:0, Ab:0

RESOLVED: That £2,000 towards CCTV capital in Dover Road and Harbour Way be added to the 2021/22 budget.

Proposed: Councillor J Meade

Seconded: Councillor N Keen

Voting: F:7 Ag:0, Ab:0

RESOLVED: To receive Report F/20/275 and to apply the above adjustments, giving a draft budget of £911,150 and to recommended to Full Council on 14th January 2021 a 2021/22 precept of £873,950 (the same amount as in 2020/21). Additional funding will be met from the General Reserve if required.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor D Jeffrey

Voting: F:7 Ag:0, Ab:0

1381. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18th February 2021 @ 6.30pm

Chairman.....

Date.....