

## FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held at Folkestone Town Council Offices, Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 at 7.00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Brook, P Gane, D Horton, D Jeffrey, M Keutenius, M Lawes, C McConville (Chair), T Prater and B Walker.

**ABSENT:**

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

### **1430. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor R Field.

### **1431. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **1432. MINUTES**

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021. The reason why Councillor D Horton had been unable to attend the previous meeting was noted and accepted by the Committee.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 be received and signed as a correct record.**

Proposed: Councillor B Walker

Seconded: Councillor M Keutenius

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

### **1433. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The Committee considered the schedule of payments for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved.**

Proposed: Councillor M Lawes

Seconded: Councillor D Horton

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

**1434. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2021/22**

The budget monitoring statement to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was received by the Committee.

**RESOLVED: That the Budget Monitoring Statement to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved.**

Proposed: Councillor M Keutenius

Seconded: Councillor P Gane

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

**1435. BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Committee received the bank reconciliation statement to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**1436. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21**

The Committee noted that the external auditor had approved the Folkestone Town Council Accounts and Annual Return for 2020/21 without qualification. The Town Clerk confirmed that the return had been published on Council's website.

**1437. WARD GRANTS**

A list of ward grants approved by the Town Clerk between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

**1438. WARD GRANT BALANCES 2021/22**

A list of ward grant balances available to each Councillor as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

**1439. MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

At the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2021, the following was resolved:

Minute 17. C & G OFFICER - PLAY PARKS REPORT CE/21/294

- i) To approve Optimum Option: 'Refurbishing the parks to a high specification and make them more inclusive, increasing the play value of the parks and making them into an asset for the local community. The approximate cost of this would be £250,000 for the first year and, it is estimated, a further £35,000 per annum for the next 4 years. If the Town Council was to include all the parks in one large tender, it would prove to be more cost effective for two reasons: 1; Usually deals can be struck with play companies who are willing to offer discounts to win the business. 2; Once work on the parks is complete the maintenance would be very little. Spreading out the £250,000 over three years, for example, would still require the minimum spend on some of the parks to make them safe in the first year or so'.

- ii) 'The Parks Working Group recommends the Committee resolve to approve the release of a further £150,000 from reserves, subject to the approval of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, at its next meeting on 21st October 2021, to commence with the 'Optimum' option presented'.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

It was noted that the £100,000 dowry from Folkestone & Hythe District Council had been insufficient to get the parks to a reasonable standard. It was agreed that the release of funding for this project should be a Full Council decision.

**RESOLVED: To begin preparations for tender and seek external funding, reporting to Full Council with further information when available.**

Proposed: Councillor T Prater

Seconded: Councillor M Keutenius

Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:1

**1440. BUDGET 2022/23 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS**

The Committee was asked to give thought to possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for the next financial year. The following was noted:

Play Areas – An additional £10,000 (recurring)

There was also some discussion on the possibility of reducing funding available for ward and/or town grants and mayoral clothing. All proposals, along with those from other committees, will be discussed at the next meeting.

**1441. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm

Chairman.....

Date.....