

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd February 2021 commencing at 19:00 hours remotely via 'Zoom'.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Murdoch (Chair), Bartlett (20:10), Davies, Marsh, Norman, Rumsey, Sutcliffe, Thomas and Williams.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk and Democratic Services Officer.

FG46/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Bartlett as she had another meeting. Cllr. Bartlett was able to attend from 20:10.

FG47/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Norman – Leominster in Bloom and Walkers are Welcome (Spouse)
Cllr. Murdoch – Member of Walkers are Welcome

FG48/20 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There had been no requests for dispensations received.

FG49/20 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present. No matters were raised.

FG50/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14th December 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record when social distancing restrictions are lifted.

FG51/20 CLERK'S REPORT

Committee noted the following items:

- The clerk has requested further information in respect of the Kickstart Scheme regarding the potential employment of 2 trainees;
- The clerk has made a number of savings in respect of unused email addresses, an unused mapping system and insurance that is covered under an existing policy;
- The clerk and Financial assistant will be carrying out a rent review over the next 3 months;
- Following a meeting with the Environment Agency, the Agency has agreed to undertake tree planting in various parts of the Town and will consider replacing dead trees along Pinsley Mead. The Agency will also install bird and bat boxes in open spaces;
- The clerk has received an estimate of approximately £5500 to provide CCTV in Central Car Park. The clerk will provide further information at the Full Council meeting on 29th March 2021.

- An update was provided in respect of the charities J&P McCaull and E Stanley Holland;
- The clerk advised that she would take part in licensing training as soon as possible.

FG52/20 FINANCIAL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS

(a) Income and Expenditure Report

- Committee noted the report up to the end of January 2021 and the additional budget notes.

(b) Accounts Paid and Outstanding Accounts for Payment

- Following consideration of the accounts paid and outstanding accounts for payment, Committee **RESOLVED** to ratify the payments relating to January and the first half of February 2021.

(c) Committee Report – Committee considered the Committee Update Report and, following discussion, **RESOLVED:**

- To note the report;
- To check with the Grants and Support Officer regarding the placement of signage around Grange Court;
- To ratify payments to HALC/NALC for 2021/22 subscriptions and to Leominster in Bloom to plant a bee hive planter in Corn Square;
- To chase up further information requested in respect of proposed electrical works to 11 Corn Square and to obtain a comparison quote;
- To readvertise for the post of Environmental Services Supervisor.

(d) Budget Consultation Report 2021/22

- Committee noted the report and the clerk advised that it would be summarised for publication in Leominster News.

FG53/20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

As certain items were expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Finance & General Purposes Committee **RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of, Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(a) Grants – Following consideration of the grant applications and the report on Youth funding, the Committee **RESOLVED:**

- To allocate a grant of £100 from the General Grant budget to Walkers are Welcome in Leominster to pay the annual subscription as part of the National Network.

- To allocate a grant of £3500 from the Youth Budget to New Leaf Sustainable Development Ltd to commission a team of artists to work with young artists to create and manage Street Level, an exhibition and support network for creative young people in Leominster aged 14-24 from April 2021 – March 2022.
- To allocate a grant of £3000 to No Wrong Door (part of HVOSS) to fund youth support services and outreach work with students from Earl Mortimer College;
- To request information from the recipients of grants awarded in the last financial year and to request a return of any unspent funds;
- To appoint a Task & Finish Group of Cllrs. Bartlett, Marsh & Murdoch to review the Grant Application Form with the Projects and Grants Officer. The review of the form will include a request for information from the recipients of grants that have been awarded and will include a clause for the return of any unspent funds.

(b) **CAB Report** – Committee noted the reports and identified that there was an issue when people initially claimed. It was **RESOLVED** to contact that the DWP to ask what the issue was and whether it had been resolved.

FG54/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee would be held on Monday 26th April 2021 at 19:00 which, subject to social distancing restrictions, would either be held remotely via Zoom or at the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:50 hours.

CHAIR:

DATE: