

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 26th April 2021 commencing at 19:00 hours remotely via 'Zoom'.

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk and Democratic Services Officer.

FG01/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Marshall (Personal) and Cllr. Sutcliffe (Personal).

FG02/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Bartlett – LDCA Community Centre

FG03/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There had been no requests for dispensations received.

FG04/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

FG05/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22nd February 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record when social distancing restrictions are lifted.

FG06/21 CLERK'S REPORT

Committee noted that the items in the Clerk's Report were confidential and would be added to the confidential items section of the meeting.

FG07/21 FINANCIAL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS

(a) Income and Expenditure Report

- Committee noted the report up to the end of March 2021 and the additional budget notes. The clerk is holding a meeting with the accountant on Wednesday 28th April 2021 to establish the final end of year position and will provide an update at the next meeting;
- Cllr Bartlett queried whether the Council should invest in a larger gazebo due to events being held in the Secret Garden. The clerk advised that the Council already owns a large party tent;
- The clerk informed the Committee that charges for the use of the Secret Garden will increase once the toilet block is finished.

- (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 March and April 2021.
- (c) **Committee Report** – Committee considered the Committee Update Report and, following discussion, **RESOLVED**:
- To note the report;
 - To investigate solutions to the problems regarding the tree roots and wall in the Secret Garden;
 - To note that the cost of insurance for the next year will increase due to the acquisition of a new chipper and the new signage;
 - To note that an insurance claim has been made to cover the cost of repairing the damage to the skate park on Sydonia. The insurance company has requested that a second quote is obtained for the works;
 - To delegate procurement to the clerk to obtain 2 further quotes in respect of the repair and upgrade of the internal CCTV at 11 Corn Square;
 - To inform BT that the Committee agrees to the decommissioning of the telephone box on Worcester Road;
 - To note that the Tourist Information Centre has received £1000 from the Tourist Association towards a new website;
 - To note that the Task & Finish Group, in respect of grant applications, is in the process of producing a new grant application form and expects the form to be available within 3 months.

FG08/21 **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 application and the grants already awarded for 2021/22, the Committee **RESOLVED**:
- To allocate a grant of up to £1000 from the General Grant budget to Leominster in Bloom to install a defibrillator in the telephone box on Bargates. Leominster in Bloom have set up a Just Giving page for donations and it was **RESOLVED** that the amount to be awarded would be the cost of the defibrillator, minus the amount raised through Just Giving, up to a maximum grant of £1000;
 - To ratify the following grants already awarded for 2021/22:
 - £8000 to LDCA Community Centre. Grant documents will be provided later in the year;

MINUTES

- £7000 to LARC. This is due to be paid in September and will be the final payment;
- £1000 to Leominster Meeting Centre – as agreed at the Committee meeting held on 26th October 2020.

- (b) **Armed Forces Silver Award** – Committee **RESOLVED** to amend the staff handbook to support members of the armed forces, reserves and cadet adult volunteers.

CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk informed the Committee that:

- Cllr. Thomas (Mayor) had raised £461.61 in respect of his 2 charities – Leominster First Responders and Leominster ATC Band. The Committee **RESOLVED** to top up the amount raised to £1000, using unspent funds from the Mayor's allowance, and the amount would be split equally between the 2 charities;
- Walkers are Welcome in Leominster have advised that the amount shown on their grant application should have been £110 instead of £100. The grant was ratified by the Committee at the meeting on 22nd February 2021 and it was **RESOLVED** that the additional £10 is awarded;
- Kickstart scheme – 2 candidates have been put forward by the Job Centre. Committee **RESOLVED** that the clerk and Projects and Grants Officer can begin interviewing candidates.

FG09/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee would be held on Monday 28th June 2021 at 19:30 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 20:10 hours.

CHAIR:

DATE: