

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 28th June 2021 commencing at 19:30 hours in the John Abel Room at Grange Court, Pinsley Road, Leominster HR6 8NL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Murdoch (Chair), Marshall (Vice-Chair), Bartlett, Davies, Marsh, Norman, Rumsey, Sutcliffe and Williams.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk and Democratic Services Officer.

FG10/21 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Committee.

Cllr Murdoch was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Bartlett. There being no other nominations, Cllr Murdoch was formally elected Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

FG11/21 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Cllr Marshall was proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr Rumsey. There being no other nominations, Cllr Marshall was formally elected Vice-Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

FG12/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

FG13/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

FG14/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There had been no requests for dispensations received.

FG15/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

FG16/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 26th April 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

FG17/21 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk informed the Committee that:

- No Wrong Door are currently liaising with teachers at Earl Mortimer College to establish which students they will offer assistance to;
- A representative from Salt Road is currently working with the Projects & Grant Assistant to produce a survey for the Cultural Consortium. The clerk will obtain an update from Salt Road on the Street Level artwork project;
- Over 300 people attended the Man in the Moone event in the Secret Garden over a 3-week period;
- A letter of thanks has been received from Leominster Meeting Centre for the grant made by Leominster Town Council.

FG18/21 FINANCIAL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS**(a) Income and Expenditure Report**

- Committee noted the report up to the end of May 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 May and June 2021.

(c) Budget Planning 2022/23

- Committee **RESOLVED** to launch the budget consultation at the Farmers Market on 11th September 2021. A QR code will be put on the Council website. Committee also **RESOLVED** to set up a working party comprising of Cllrs Bartlett, Davies and Marsh to assist in the budget planning.

(d) Committee Report - Committee considered the Committee Update Report and, following discussion, **RESOLVED:**

- To note the report;
- To contact Herefordshire Council regarding payment of the signage grant;
- To note that requests are being received to use the Secret Garden and a pricing structure will need to be set up by the Communications & Events Committee;
- To obtain 2 further quotes for the design of Central Car Park Toilets. The clerk will check whether planning permission is required;
- To contact Herefordshire Council due to a complaint being received regarding the condition of the Gas Works toilets;
- To obtain an update on the Market Town Economic Development Project;
- To note that a budget of £500 is available for the training of the Projects & Grants Assistant and that an application has been received for an Environments & Grounds Assistant.

(e) Internal Auditor Appointment

- Committee **RESOLVED** to appoint Iain Selkirk FCA to carry out the mandatory internal audit required annually. Committee noted that there will be two visits necessary.

FG19/21 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) Potential devolved asset

Committee noted that a meeting is to be held with Herefordshire Council on 29th June 2021 to discuss the potential devolved asset. Committee **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the clerk to negotiate with Herefordshire Council, which included agreeing to an asset transfer immediately, subject to approval by Herefordshire Council.

FG20/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee would be held on Monday 6th September 2021 at 19:00 in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.00 hours.

CHAIR:

DATE: