

# LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8NL

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors Murdoch (Chair), Davies, Marsh, Marshall, Norman, Sutcliffe (19.07) and Williams.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Democratic Services Officer.

**FG21/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Committee for Cllr Bartlett (Prior Meeting), Cllr Hanna (Illness) and the Town Clerk (Illness).

**FG22/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- Cllr Norman – North Herefordshire Shopmobility

**FG23/22 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There had been no requests for dispensations received.

**FG24/22 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

**FG25/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cllr Norman requested an update regarding a proposed meeting with representatives from Tenbury Wells and Bromyard to discuss how they funded Community Buses and what they use them for (FG18/22 (c)).

Cllr Murdoch advised that the clerk is carrying out an energy price review (FG18/22 (a)).

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

(Proposed: Cllr Williams, Seconded: Cllr Norman

For: 7

Cllr Sutcliffe had not joined the meeting at this stage).

**FG26/22 CLERK'S REPORT**

In the absence of the clerk, Cllr Murdoch provided the following update:

- **Budget Consultation Working Group** – the group has held 2 meetings to consider budget setting for 2023/24. The group is considering the cost of energy and a potential staff pay rise. The group are waiting for details of the tax base, but it was reported that, due to the cost of living crisis, it is likely that there will be a significant increase in the precept.

## FG27/22 FINANCIAL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS

**(a) Income and Expenditure Report**

- Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the report up to the end of September 2022 and the additional budget notes.  
(Proposed: Cllr Marsh, Seconded: Cllr Davies  
Unanimous).

**(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 September and October 2022.  
(Proposed: Cllr Norman, Seconded: Cllr Williams  
Unanimous).

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

- To note the report;
- To write to Herefordshire Council to express the Committee's deep concerns regarding the proposed delay to the commencement of HSHAZ works in Corn Square, due to the effect on the interests of residents in the town, and to request an explanation as to why the works are delayed;
- To vire £1000 from cost centre 101-4900 Contingency to 105-4008 Travel and Subsistence (as this has already exceeded the amount allocated in the budget).  
(Proposed: Cllr Sutcliffe, Seconded: Cllr Norman  
Unanimous);
- To note that there were 114 responses to the Budget Consultation 2023/24. The responses identified a need to focus on youth provision and street cleaning. A detailed report will be prepared for consideration at the Full Council meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and a copy of the report will be forwarded to Herefordshire Council. Cllr Marsh thanked the TIC staff and Councillors involved in promoting the consultation;
- To note that activity spaces were provided using the grant awarded from the Get Active Green Spaces Scheme and to consider including an activity space on the Grange, in the future, if the scheme is repeated. It was also noted that Grange Court had previously provided sporting equipment for use on the Grange;
- To accept and sign the offer letter for the Old Priory Feasibility Study and to sign the terms and conditions of Buttress, the provider of the study. Committee **RESOLVED** that the documents are signed by either the Mayor or Town Clerk.  
(Proposed: Cllr Marshall, Seconded: Cllr Sutcliffe  
Unanimous).

Committee noted that it was important to carry out the study to ensure that the Town Council's proposals for the asset are feasible

and the study will enhance the Town Council's chance of obtaining funding for building works;

- To consider submitting an article on youth grant reports for publication in the December edition of Leominster News;
- To consider including the youth grant reports on the Town Council website, including details of how grants are allocated;
- To note the youth grant report update from Kids Kitchen. Funding was provided to deliver weekly Kids Kitchen sessions at Coningsby Children's Centre. Two half term blocks have so far been delivered. A different recipe has been prepared each week and the sessions have been attended by up to 4 families / 6 children;
- To note the youth grant report update from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. Three 2-hourly Wildplay sessions were held at Barons Cross. The sessions were well attended by up to 27 children and 8 adults;
- To note that 'No Wrong Door' has now closed, causing a large gap in youth provision in Herefordshire;
- To note that HALC have reviewed the new grant form and suggested 3 minor amendments;
- To provide weekly 2-hour 'warm space' sessions within the Council Chamber, running from mid-November 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, for local residents. Committee noted that a risk assessment should be carried out and a policy implemented prior to opening up as a Warm Space.  
(Proposed: Cllr Norman, Seconded: Cllr Marshall  
Unanimous);
- To request funding of £500 from the Talk Community Warm Spaces fund, to support the provision of a Warm Space in 11 Corn Square for the period November 2022 – March 2023.  
(Proposed: Cllr Norman, Seconded: Cllr Marshall  
Unanimous).

## FG28/22 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) Grant Report

Following consideration of the grant applications, Committee **RESOLVED**:

- To allocate a grant of £792, from the General Grant budget, to Leominster Community Choir, to cover rent of a room at Leominster Community Centre for weekly sessions from September 2022 to July 2023. Committee requested that the choir performs at a community event at least once a term.

(Proposed: Cllr Williams, Seconded: Cllr Marshall  
Unanimous).

- To allocate a grant of £1500, from the General Grant budget, to North Herefordshire Shopmobility towards general running costs including rent.

(Proposed: Cllr Marsh, Seconded: Cllr Williams  
For: 7  
Abstention: 1).

**(b) Staffing Report Update**

Committee noted the staffing report update.

**FG29/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee would be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 19:00 in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.26 hours.

**CHAIR:**

**DATE:**