

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 16th December 2019 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk.

FG30/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Sutcliffe.

FG31/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

FG32/19 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There had been no requests for dispensations received.

FG33/19 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

FG34/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 28th October 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

FG35/19 CLERK'S REPORT

Committee noted the following items:

- That the Tax Base for 2020/21 had increased by only 0.5% from 3660.05 to 3,678.52;
- That Cllr Bartlett would respond on behalf of the Town Council to the research into Neighbourhood Planning commissioned by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and conducted independently by the University of Reading.

FG36/19 FINANCIAL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS

- (a) **Financial Report** – Committee considered the Financial Report and Balance Sheet up to the end of November 2019 (Month 8). Following discussion, it was agreed to receive the report.
- (b) **Outstanding Accounts for Payment** – Committee ratified the payments relating to the months of November 2019 amounting to £4,346.36, inclusive of VAT, and December 2019 to date amounting to £25,616.71, inclusive of VAT.

- (c) **Committee Report** – Committee considered the Committee Update Report and, following discussion, **RESOLVED**:
- To note the report;
 - Noted that a Great Collaboration meeting to discuss Climate Change would be held on Thursday 6th February 2020 at The Talbot Hotel;
 - To investigate grant opportunities to help fund the installation of renewable technologies on to Council properties, including the Secret Garden toilets, the new depot and the public conveniences;
 - To agree in principle to apply for a Marches Renewable Energy Project grant to help meet up to 50% of the cost of any renewable technologies;
 - To defer consideration of the proposed lease for Unit 7, Croft Business Park until a response had been received from the Council's solicitors;
 - To defer consideration of installing WiFi into the Holiday Flat until further investigation had been carried out into the provision of full fibre, which had recently been installed in Leominster.

FG37/19 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 Report** – Committee noted that no grant requests had been received.
- (b) **Staff Report** – Committee noted the verbal staff report presented. A full report would be submitted to Full Council at its meeting on 27th January 2019.
- (c) **Budget Report** – Committee considered the consultation report presented and, following discussion, agreed to reflect the results in the final amendments to be made to the 2020/21 budget.

A Budget Task & Finish Group meeting would be held in January 2020 prior to Full Council to enable the Town Clerk Designate to be involved. It was agreed to send a copy of the current draft budget to all Members for their information and to encourage feedback.

- (d) **CAB Update** – Committee noted the update provided by CAB and agreed to request clarification whether the income gain achieved was on-going or one off payments.

- (e) **Heritage High Streets Draft proposal** – Committee noted that the draft proposal regarding the Leominster High Street Heritage Action Zone Delivery Plan.

The Plan had been considered by the Regional Panel on 10th December 2019 and, subject to any amendments, would be reviewed by the National Panel on 20th December 2019. A full briefing would be given to Full Council at its meeting on 27th January 2020 following the finalisation of the delivery plan.

Committee wished to place on record its thanks to all the staff involved in the “Through the Wardrobe” event held on 14th December 2019 and in the development of the Heritage High Street project.

FG38/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee would be held on Monday 24th February 2020 at 19:00 at the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:15pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: