

# LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 commencing at 19:00 hours remotely via 'Zoom'.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors Murdoch (Chair), Marshall (Vice-Chair), Bartlett, Davies, Marsh, Norman (19.04), Rumsey, Sutcliffe, Thomas and Williams (19.04).

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Town Clerk

**FG19/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**FG20/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Cllr Bartlett: Leominster Area Polish Society

**FG21/20 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There had been no requests for dispensations received.

**FG22/20 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

One member of the public was present and raised the following query regarding the provision of a new BMX pump track in the town. As a resident with children that lives near Sydonia park, he noticed that the skate park is over populated with BMX bikes and asked if it was possible that funding could be made available to install a pump track. Following discussion, it was outlined that external funding would have to be sought and a feasibility study carried out. It was agreed that the resident would attend a Zoom meeting with Councillors to give a presentation with examples, so that the councillors could gain a clearer understanding of the type of facility requested.

**FG23/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record when social distancing restrictions are lifted.

**FG24/20 CLERK'S REPORT**

- Committee considered the table of quotes to build a more up to date, accessibility compliant website. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Davies and unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Aubergine based on their experience with building town council websites, staff training available and ongoing service costs.

## FG25/20 FINANCIAL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS

### (a) Income and Expenditure Report

- Committee considered the final end of year report up to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (Month 4) and the accompanying Budget Notes and it was **RESOLVED** that the report be ratified.
- Committee also considered the end of year projection and noted that this would be updated and presented at all Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings.

### (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 the months of July and August 2020.

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

- To note the report;
- To appoint Cllrs. Murdoch, Bartlett and Davies to the Budget Task & Finish Group to help develop the 2021/22 budget and revise the Corporate Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- That the John Scarlett Davis quote should be revisited for an accurate estimate of cost and a funding allowance for conservation works be put into the 2021/22 budget.
- That an outreach article for the Knife Angel sculpture be submitted to the Leominster News when the sculpture is installed at Hereford Cathedral in June 2021 and to generate ideas for other outreach projects associated to the sculpture.
- That the Clerk should contact Balfour Beatty to arrange for the tree contractors to return and carry out balanced pruning to the trees on West Street, outside The Talbot Hotel, as currently this will prevent the re-installation of the Christmas lights.
- To accept the Millennium Quest quotation for the work to the Christmas Light timers to ensure the efficient operation of the Christmas lights this year.

## FG26/20 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 application, the Committee **RESOLVED:**
- To award a grant of £600 to the Leominster Area Polish Society towards the provision and installation of a heritage interpretation board and associated publicity.
- (b) **Quotes for the upgrade of the heating system** – Committee considered the recommendations of the Task & Finish Group and **RESOLVED;**
- To accept the Grange quotation of £7240.00 for upgrading the heating system at 11 Corn Square so that it operates more efficiently.
- (c) **Potential devolved asset acquisition** – Committee considered the potential of the asset that could be acquired from Herefordshire Council and following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to submit an expression of interest, that a site visit will be arranged and more information be requested.
- (d) **National Joint Council Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2020-21** – The pay agreement of 2.75% and an additional day holiday pro rata were noted. This had already been budgeted for in the 2020-21 annual budget and will be back dated to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

**FG27/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee would be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 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 20.44 hours.

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**CHAIR:**

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**DATE:**