

# LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ward Cllr Stone.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Town Clerk.

**FG30/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Rumsey (personal).

**FG31/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**FG32/18 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There had been no requests for dispensation.

**FG33/18 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There was one members of the public present. No matters were raised.

**FG34/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**FG35/18 CLERK'S REPORT**

The following Clerk's Report was noted:

- (a) **Assets of Community Value (ACV)** – Herefordshire Council was currently reviewing its legacy casework for ACVs prior to year-end and it was suggested that the Town Council withdrew its application related to the Barons Cross Inn and resubmit it again with a plan and tighter drafting of the application using the new application form.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED:**

- To withdraw the Baron's Cross submission and revise it accordingly;
- To appoint an ACV Task & Finish Group to review all existing and future ACV applications;
- To appoint Cllrs Marshall, Murdoch and Thomas to sit on the Task & Finish Group;

- To include an article in the next Leominster News asking residents to suggest potential community assets that should be considered for nomination.

**(b) Council Tax Base** – Committee noted that the Council Tax base for 2019/20 was 3660.05, an increase of 1.47% on the previous Tax base of 3606.38. It was further noted that if a precept of £512,222 was agreed by Council in January 2019, then the Leominster Town Council tax increase would reduce to 4.14% resulting in a D Band of £139.95.

## **FG36/18 FINANCIAL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS**

**(a) Financial Report** – Committee considered the interim Financial Report to for Quarter 3 and, following discussion, **RESOLVED:**

- That the report be noted;
- That the payments for October 2018 amounting to £93,332, exclusive of VAT, and November 2018 to date, amounting to £34,723, exclusive of VAT be ratified;
- That balances held as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 amounted to £446,293 be noted;
- That consideration regarding the replacement of the Financial Assistant position would be considered by the Personnel Committee in January 2019.

Committee noted that the current projected overspend was due to funding the holiday flat renovation from current balances and a reduction of income from services.

**(b) Outstanding Accounts for Payment** – Committee ratified the payments relating to December 2018 to date amounting to 49,008.35, inclusive of VAT.

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

- To note the report;
- To adopt the revised vision statement “Leominster is an attractive place to live, work and visit with a high level of social, environmental and economic well-being”;
- To note that a response had been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding the queries raised relating to the PWLB application;
- To accept the quotation from DCS Group Kidderminster to upgrade the photocopier subject to confirming if there was a break clause included. There was concern expressed regarding the length of lease (60 months) but it was confirmed that there was an option after 24 months to review and upgrade;
- To accept the recommendations contained within the Holiday Flat report regarding costs, booking agent and website promotion.

Thanks were extended to the Office Manager and the Events Officer for all their hard work on the photocopier and holiday flat reports.

(Cllr Williams left the meeting at 7.46pm)

Concern was expressed regarding a recent report regarding the reduction of ambulance cover in the area by the West Midlands Ambulance Service. It was agreed to write a letter expressing Council's disappointment subject to confirming what reductions were to be implemented.

**FG37/18 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) **Projects Update Report** – Committee noted the Projects update report. Thanks were extended to the Grants and Projects Officer for her hard work developing these initiatives

**FG38/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Committee noted that the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee would be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 19:00 at the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:56pm.

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**CHAIR:**

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**DATE:**