



Minutes of a Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting, held in the Town Council Committee Room, Manor Offices, Holsworthy, Wednesday 27th November 2019.

Present: Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Heaven, Cllr. Hutchings, Cllr. Johns, Cllr. Tallon & Cllr. Shepherd
In Attendance: Town Clerk (TC)
Assistant to The Town Clerk (ATTC)

1152. Apologises for absence

Cllr. Parker

1153. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman requested that Cllrs. declare any interests as relevant matters arose.

1154. Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting Minutes

Cllr. Heaven proposed that the minutes of the Meeting held on 30th October 2019 be signed as a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr. Hutchings and agreed. (Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions).

1155. Matters Arising

Nothing raised

1156. Accounts due for Payment and Budget Review

The TC went through the Accounts due for Payment. It was confirmed that the Football Club have paid the rent due. The invoices received from Plandscapes are still behind, this is due to them not being sent either on time or going into a trash folder on the Email system.

Cllr. Johns proposed the accounts be paid. This was seconded by Cllr. Heaven and agreed. (Vote 6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

The TC went through the Budget Sheet - no further changes or comments were made.

1157. To give an update and authorise expenditure on the 2019 Christmas Switch On Event

The picket fencing has now been purchased. The Grotto has also been received and checked; this could prove to be an asset to the Town Council as it could be rented out.

The Rotary Club have donated £50 to the Christmas Eve Carol Service.

The grant from DCC has not yet been received, the TC will chase this with Cllr. Parsons.

1158. To discuss and recommend an application to the Pocket Parks Programme

The application for funding from the Pocket Parks Programme will need to be in by the end of December 2019. The fund is aimed at small park areas which will assist young or old people with additional needs, as well as elderly people who may suffer from dementia or similar disabilities. The ATTC had attended a DALC conference where she had met with a supplier of outdoor senior fitness equipment and thought this would be an asset for Stanhope Park. Cllr. Hutchings requested that all areas in the Park be investigated to locate the equipment if the funding application was successful. Another area suggested by Cllr. Johns was Station Close. The TC explained that the application would require 30% match funding from the Council and formal approval from Council. It was agreed that an application should be progressed and Cllr. Allen suggested that the application be taken to the next Council meeting.

1159. To discuss the purchase of a VE Day Commemoration circular bench for the Square.

It had been suggested that the purchase of a Commemoration circular bench around the "Great

Tree” be investigated as part of the VE DAY 75 commemorations next year. A cost for this has been sourced from the supplier who had made the existing WW1 benches. It was agreed the TC should approach the Guardians of the Tree to ascertain if this is something they would be supportive and also if they would consider contributing an amount to the cost of the bench.

Cllr. Allen proposed that this should be discussed with all Cllrs at the next Full Council meeting.

Cllr. Hutchings requested confirmation of the Grants application status for the VE Events. The TC confirmed this has not been pursued as yet as she is still waiting for suggestions of events to take place as part of the commemorations.

1160. To discuss any expenditure required on new Welcome to Holsworthy signage for the entrances to the Town.

Cllrs. discussed the current design that the TC had produced for the DCC approved signage to the entrances to Holsworthy. The relevant signs are those on the roads into Holsworthy from Bideford, Bude, Derriton, Launceston, Okehampton & Chilsworthy.

Cllr. Hutchings suggested that the wording of ‘Ancient Market Town’ should be changed to ‘Historic Market Town’, with all Cllrs agreeing to the change.

There was a discussion regarding the potential cost of the signage as the Committee felt that DCC should cover all the cost or most of the cost of the signage.

The TC explained that the condition of the current signs would influence how much DCC would be prepared to fund the new signage. The TC will investigate the cost and will bring this back to this Committee.

1161. To discuss the Council entering for the 2020 Britain in Bloom.

Cllr. Heaven confirmed that she had attended a Rotary meeting with the TC, ATTC and the Maintenance Operative where there had been a presentation from a representative of the Britain in Bloom organisation.

It was explained that competition is not confined to one area in a town, several areas can be included but it was pointed out that if entering more than one area, the judges will take into account what is seen when travelling from one area to the other (such as rubbish, weeds etc) and can be judged on that as well.

The areas discussed to be included were Stanhope Park, Badock Gardens and The Square. Cllr. Allen suggested this to be discussed at the next Council meeting so that all Cllrs are aware and can have an input.

The TC requested that a sum of up to £100 be ringfenced to enter Britain in Bloom 2020. All present agreed.

1162. To discuss the draft Budget for 2019/20.

The TC went through the draft budget for 2019/2020. Cllr. Allen queried “Professional Services”. TC explained that this is for Rent Reviews, solicitors’ fees, surveys, subscriptions etc

Also discussed was the current list of projects for 2020/21.

- Cllr. Kenneally suggested an event in the Skateboard park, he has already made contact with skateboard professionals in the Bideford area. This would take place in August 2020.
- Cllr. Tallon would like a Halloween 2020 Event in The Square.
- Cllr. Hutchings mentioned that the CCG are planning to publish the results of the surveys carried out; hopefully by the end of the year, with a number of implementations to progress which would benefit the Town. The sum of money in the list of projects would be used to help progress the plans for Holsworthy.
- Cllr. Johns suggested that as the protection of the environment is so important that the Council have a recycling initiative project this could include a plastic recycling cow similar to the giant recycling Fish in Westward Ho!
- Project funding for the VE & VJ Day Commemorations in 2020, which includes the Street Party suggested by Cllr. Heaven.

The TC also highlighted a list of projects that are still outstanding from 2019/20, included the replacement of the lampposts in the Square. Cllr. Allen suggested that the previous projects, as agreed, should be brought forward to be actioned with the 2020/21 projects.

Cllr. Shepherd said that he is willing to oversee the designs for the signage into town as this had previously been discussed at the Planning & Highways Committee of which he is Chair.

The list of Projects for 2020/21 and 2019/20 will be circulated again at the next Council meeting for discussion and final approval.

1163. Town Clerk's Report – to receive a report from the TC for information only.

Cllr. Allen confirmed that he has stepped down from Speccotts Charity and invited any other interested Councillor to take on this role as the Council's representative.

Cllr. Heaven confirmed that she is willing to act as the representative.

1164. Close

Cllr. Allen closed the meeting at 6.09pm

Signed.....

Date