



**Minutes of a Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held remotely by Zoom on.
Wednesday 27th January at 5.00pm**

Present: Cllr. Parker, Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Hutchings
In Attendance: Town Clerk (TC)
Assistant to The Town Clerk (ATTC)

1214. Apologises for absence.
Cllr. Johns, Cllr Shepherd.

1215. Declaration of Interest
Cllr. Allen asked Councillors to declare any relevant interests as they arose. As this meeting is being held by Zoom the ATTC will mark in the DOI Book and Cllrs will need to attend the office to sign.

1216. Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting Minutes
Cllr. Parker proposed that the minutes of the Meeting held on 28th October 2020 be signed as a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr. Hutchings and agreed. (Vote; 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.)

1217. Matters Arising.
Item 1212- The Grants for 2020 are still to be presented.
Cllr. Hutchings asked for clarification regarding the payment of the re-occurring grants, such as that awarded to St Peters Fair, as they have not received their grant, but overheads still needed to be paid. The TC stated that due to the Covid 19 pandemic the Carnival and St Peters Fair were cancelled and therefore did not receive their grants. The payment of grants is to be discussed at the February Council meeting to ascertain what the Council wishes to do regarding the grants for 2020/21 and those for 2021/22 and the TC will report back at this meeting.

1218. Accounts due for Payment and Budget Review
The TC went through the Accounts due for Payment.
Cllr. Allen proposed the accounts be paid. This was seconded by Cllr. Parker and agreed. (Vote; 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).
The Market income is still much lower than expected due to the enforced closure. The income from the hire of the Market Hall at present has ceased due to Covid 19. The Holsworthy Covid 19 Mutual Group has been awarded and received a grant of £700 from Town Council.

1219. To update and agree expenditure on the works required at the Councils property at Penrose Terrace.
Members had been sent the latest email from the Insurance company. The TC is still awaiting a breakdown of the expenditure for the works totalling £2,360.00 from the contractor. Cllr. Allen suggested that the works should be inspected after completion. One of the tenants is a key worker and is home schooling a child so due to Covid restrictions the internal work will not be completed until at least March.

1220. To agree the reinvestment of the Councils funds currently held in a Deposit Bond.

The TC detailed the current situation regarding the Council’s Funds held in Investment Bonds and explained that approval was sought to reinvest the funds in a further Deposit Bond for a period of 3 months. The reason for this period is that interest rates have fallen sharply due to the current pandemic and it is hoped that in three months interest rates may improve.

Cllr. Allen proposed that the reinvestment of the Council’s funds currently held in a Deposit Bond be further reinvested in a 3-month Deposit Bond. This was seconded by Cllr. Hutchings and agreed. (Vote 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)

1221. Town Clerk’s Report – to receive a report from the TC for information only.

The TC stated that a meeting had been held which Cllrs. Allen and Hutchings had attended followed by correspondence from DCC in relation to the replacement of Street Lighting In The Square. DCC have confirmed that they are willing to contribute to the cost of the replacement. Cllr. Hutchings request diagrams/pictures of the new lampposts so that the Council can see what they look like and confirmation that they will be able to take wrap around planters and festoon lighting.

These lights do not include Victoria Square and outside the White Hart, these will be looked at separately.

Halwill Parish Council have contacted the Council to find out if anything is being planned to recognise Cllr. Parsons' contribution to the community over the years. After a discussion it was agreed that the Council should take part and lead on this.

Cllr. Allen proposed that in view of the special or confidential nature of the following business to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press temporarily be excluded and they will be instructed to withdraw. This was seconded by Cllr. Parker and agreed (Vote For 3, 0 Against, 0 Absentations).

1222. To discuss the next steps to be taken regarding payment of the invoice for the infrastructure and installation of the Christmas Lights

The TC is awaiting further advice from TDC. Cllr. Hutchings stated that if no response is received by Friday 29th January, he will make contact with TDC.

1223. Close

Cllr. Allen closed the meeting at 5.18pm

Signed.....

Date