

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Adams – Chair;

Cllrs Anstey, Earth, Goldsmith, Hale, Jackson, Lewendon, Mouland, Paton, Perkins, White & Wilson.

In attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, RFO
A representative from the Salisbury Journal
Two members of the public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in the payment of accounts.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25th August 2021 and report any matters arising

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mouland and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th August 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.
No matters arising.

4. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public

None.

5. To receive details of Monies Collected & Payment of Accounts

Cllr Adams referred to the RFO's report to members.

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr White and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the schedule of payments of account and that the amounts collected are correct. All in favour.

6. To consider grant applications under Section 137/CIL

- Avon Valley Community Matters

A member of the public introduced herself as a trustee of Avon Valley Community Matters ("AVCM"), the outreach part of the churches. She provided details of a proposed fun day in conjunction with Avonway. Some local families are struggling financially so AVCM does not want to charge for the day as it would then potentially exclude those people that they want to come along. Cllrs discussed whether the application met the criteria of the Town Council's grant policy and also considered the costs detailed within the application. Cllr Hale suggested that the Town Council should support the proposed event as it would help bring people together. The RFO advised that there was £3,600 available in the grants budget and £2,250 in the mayor's allowance. Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: to grant £500 from the mayor's allowance to AVCM for the proposed fun day. All in favour.

7. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees - None

8. To receive an update on building matters - None

9. To note the report from the External Auditor for 2020/21 (PKF)

The report from the External Auditor approving the AGAR for 2020/21 was noted – PKF noted that the Council had not complied with the governance assertion in Section 1, Box 4, and has provided the appointed auditor with an adequate explanation for non-compliance and details of the actions necessary to address this matter. Box 4 relates to electors rights – the Council gave a period of 31 working days rather than the required 30 days. This will be checked in future years to avoid the same error occurring.

10. To approve membership of the Rural Services Network

Members approved joining the Rural Services Network, at a cost of £130 per annum. The membership had previously been agreed at a meeting of General Council. Cllr Anstey suggested that another year's membership would give the opportunity to properly evaluate the benefit of membership longer term.

11. To approve the cost of speed awareness signs for Normandy Way

Further information had been requested regarding these signs which was awaited.

12. To approve the use of CIL to fund the Adult Gym Equipment at the Recreation Ground

Members considered the three quotes for the provision of Adult Gym Equipment, references had been obtained for all three companies. The Clerk provided details of the warranties offered and the quality accreditation. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore RESOLVED: that the quote of £4,470.12 (£3,725.10 plus VAT) from FreshairFitness be accepted, all in favour. It was agreed that this would be funded from CIL, as noted in the current CIL forward plan (the amount allocated to this project was originally £30,000, so the proposal falls within budget).

13. To review the following policies and registers

- None

14. To receive a report on the budget setting process for 2021/22 from the Finance Officer

The RFO advised that next month budgets would need to be set for the forthcoming financial year and that members should consider whether there would need to be any increases in expenditure. She noted that the ground staff were likely to have to take on more open space and the new allotments and consideration should also be given to the management of the cemetery going forward. The cost of the ground staff is split across the amenities and the general purposes committees.

15. To note any items of correspondence

No correspondence.

16. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business

The following points were discussed:

- Christmas Lights switch on date noted as Friday 26th November 2021
- The external power boxes for the Christmas lights have been upgraded where necessary.
- The Christmas working party is due to meet next week.

17. To note the date of the next meeting as 27th October 2021

The meeting ended at 7:52 pm.