

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14TH JANUARY, 2020

Present: Councillors S Cudlip (Chair) and, Mrs G Bleasdale, Ms K Brace, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, S P Colborn, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Ms S Pratt, Miss L Willis.

Officers: Mrs D Rickaby (Town Clerk), Mrs J Knight (Finance Officer), Miss A Rountree (Minute Taker).

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of this Committee and members of the public that in line with the amendment to 'the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960', which came into force in August, 2014, parts of this meeting may be recorded by photographic, video and audio means.

As the Chair and Vice-Chair had made their apologies Councillor S Cudlip was nominated to Chair the meeting.

(S Cudlip in the Chair)

F98/20 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded prior to the start of the meeting of the need to disclose any interests, prejudicial or personal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Such interests must be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

F99/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 2019

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

F100/20 PAYSHEET NUMBER 9 – DECEMBER 2019/20

a) Expenditure – December, 2019

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) that all payments in Paysheet Number 9 – 2019/20 be approved, it being noted that the Bacs, Direct Debits, Online and Debit Card payments amount to £113,362.76 being the total sum authorised under this Paysheet; and

- (ii) that the BACS authorisation sheet be signed by three Members and the credit transfers be actioned immediately.

b) Income – December, 2019

RECOMMENDED the summary sheet showing the range of income received by the Council during the current month be accepted.

c) Bank Balances – December, 2019

RECOMMENDED the report of the Finance Officer a copy of which was circulated, be approved.

F101/20 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

Seaham NPT

Following the last meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting Members requested that Officers receive further information from Seaham NPT as to the possible locations of the defibrillators and also to see if they had applied to other funding sources for this project. Seaham NPT had responded to Officers to state that they had raised money by holding charitable events and the possible siting of one of the defibrillators was close to the Terrace Green due to its heavy footfall. The siting for the other defibrillator was yet to be determined.

Members discussed this and noted that it was a worthy cause that would serve the community. Another Member noted that the Seaham NPT have received other grants this year and Members should be mindful that they are not granting money to the same people/organisations throughout the year. It was also noted that the Police have a substantially bigger budget than the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £750 be awarded towards the cost of a defibrillator unit.

F102/20 TOWN HALL BOOKINGS – NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

F103/20 AUDIT REPORTS

a) Internal Audit Report – Payroll – Full Assurance

RECOMMENDED that Members accept the report.

b) Internal Audit Report – Risk Management – Full Assurance

RECOMMENDED that Members accept the report.

F104/20 **BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

It was noted that Members of the Budget Sub-Committee had reviewed all items and made adjustments as necessary and they felt they had come to a satisfactory conclusion.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee be approved.

F105/20 **REVISED BUDGET 2019/20 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2020/21**

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the budget for 2020/21 and the revised budget for 2019/2020.

F106/20 **THE PRECEPT**

It was noted that Members of the Budget Sub-Committee had discussed an increase in the precept of 2% which would aid the improvement of amenities and future projects.

RECOMMENDED that a 2% increase in the precept be approved.

F107/20 **PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

RECOMMENDED that there are no press opportunities from this meeting.