

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10TH MARCH, 2020

Present: Councillors S Cudlip (Chair) and, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, D McKenna, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, 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)

F119/20 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.

F120/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2020

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of this meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman at the Full Council meeting held on 25th February, 2020.

F121/20 PAYSHEET NUMBER 11 – FEBRUARY 2019/20

a) Expenditure – February, 2020

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) that all payments in Paysheet Number 11 – 2019/20 be approved, it being noted that the Bacs, Direct Debits, Online and Debit Card payments amount to £185,352.15 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 – February, 2020

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

c) Bank Balances – February, 2020

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

F122/20

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

a) Parkside Community Centre

Members discussed a grant application received from Parkside Community Centre for £1000 towards the cost of hosting young people from Seaham's twin town of Gerlingen.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £1000 be awarded to Parkside Community Centre towards the cost of hosting young people from Seaham's twin town of Gerlingen.

b) Dawdon Community Centre

Members discussed the grant application received from Dawdon Community Centre for £160.00 towards to the cost of room hire at Seaham Town Hall to support the foodbank.

RECOMMENDED that a grant to the value of £160.00 be awarded to Dawdon Community Centre for room hire at the Town Hall.

c) Ms Denise Kidger

Councillor D McKenna declared an interest and took no further part in voting thereon.

Members discussed the grant application received from Denise Kidger. Ms Kidger had requested a donation of between £250-£500 towards the cost of taking part in the Invictus Games in May 2020. A Member stated that there was a Go Fund Me page set up with a target of £2k to be raised which is due to end this week. The current amount raised is around £1.2k Members agreed that the Council would make up the shortfall to £2k when the final total was known.

RECOMMENDED that a grant be approved to take the total to £2k.

d) Mr Kenneth Younger

Members discussed the grant application received from Mr Kenneth Younger requesting £75.00 towards the cost of taking part in the Gerlingen Solitude Run.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £75.00 be awarded to Mr Kenneth Younger.

e) Ms Carol Vinter

Members discussed the grant application received from Ms Carol Vinter requesting £75.00 towards the cost of taking part in the Gerlingen Solitude Run.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £75.00 be awarded to Ms Carol Vinter.

RECOMMENDED that in future due to GDPR legislation applications for grants should have the bank details removed.

F123/20 TOWN HALL BOOKINGS – FEBRUARY 2020

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

F124/20 AUDIT REPORTS

a) Internal Audit Report – Income Collection and Banking – Full Assurance

RECOMMENDED that Members accept the report.

F125/20 SPECIAL BACS PAYSHEET

RECOMMENDED that approval is given for the Finance Officer to carry out a special BACs run prior to year-end.

F126/20 PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk investigates press opportunities regarding Dawdon Cricket Club once the renovation is complete.

F127/20 TOWN HALL WORKING PARTY

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the minutes of the Town Hall Working Party.

F128/20 **GERLINGEN SEPTEMBER VISIT**

Members discussed the preferred flight options for the September visit. It was noted that Durham Tees Valley had a shorter connecting flight via Amsterdam which would mean less time at the airport.

RECOMMENDED that the preferred flight option is KLM from Durham Tees Valley. Twinners to be informed of the preferred flight by letter.

F129/20 **NAC CONFERENCE**

Keep It Local Conference 3rd – 5th April 2020

The Town Clerk stated that she would be interested in attending this conference. Members agreed that the Town Clerk should attend along with the next two Members on the rota.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk and the next two Members on the rota attend the above conference

The meeting was then closed by the Chair.