

## **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2021**

Present: Councillors Mrs S Forster (Chair) and R Arthur, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, D Harding, R Lowery, J MacVeigh, Miss S Morrison, J Purvis, K Routledge, K Shaw, C J Thompson, Miss J Watson, S Wayman, R Whitehead.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs L Kennedy, Mrs S Lingard.

Observers: Councillors Mrs H Cahill, Mrs R Charlton-Lainé, Mrs G M Fuller.

Officers: P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk), C Halliday (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.*

### **F62/21 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.

### **F63/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2021**

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the last meeting were agreed at the last Full Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021 and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **F64/21 PAYSHEET NUMBER 3 – JUNE, 2021**

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) Paysheet 3-June 21 the expenditure being £96,489.69 was noted and Members endorsed the action taken.
- (ii) Members note the income received into the Councils bank account.
- (iii) Members note the information provided regarding the bank balances held by the Council at the month end.

### **F65/21 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

**F66/21**      **GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

(i)      **Seaham Park FC**

A grant application of £250 was requested towards the clubs start-up costs.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £250 to Seaham Park FC be approved.

(ii)      **Groundwork Northeast**

A grant application of £2,100 was requested for a youth engagement project to benefit 25 young people in the Seaham area.

It was noted the Councils grant policy states a maximum of £1,000 can be awarded.

A Councillor suggested the full £2,100 should be granted as the cost of damage caused by anti-social behaviour exceeds the amount that is being requested.

Another Councillor suggested the £1,000 be awarded as in line with the Council policy and the applicant could seek matched funding from County Councillors or the AAP.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £1,000 to Groundwork Northeast be approved.

(iii)      **Sea Cadets - Defibrillator**

A grant application of £214 was requested for the electrical installation for the sites defibrillator.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £214 to Seaham Sea Cadets be approved.

**F67/21**      **AUGUST RECESS PAYSHEET**

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the action to be taken.

**F68/21**      **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

A quote was provided in relation to the supply of Councillors with individual Seaham.gov.uk email addresses.

In discussion many Members felt the quote was expensive and asked if other suppliers could be approached. A Member queried if this expenditure was necessary. Another Member advised putting personal emails out in the public domain leaves Councillors vulnerable to emails which could target the Member.

A Member queried if the correspondence could be signposted through the central office email address. Another Member advised this would create additional workload for staff.

RECOMMENDED that additional quotes be brought to a future meeting for Members consideration.

**F69/21**      **CAFÉ SEAHAM HALL**

Members were advised following the current contract provider terminating their contract. The potential of the café being used by a community, charity or educational organisation is being explored.

A Member asked how companies apply to manage the café and if the costs to the previous contract holder were available? It was advised any interested parties to be directed the Town Council office.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk provide suggestions for how the café be managed to a future meeting for Members consideration.

**F70/21**      **PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

RECOMMENDED that there were no press opportunities arising from this meeting.

The meeting was then closed by the Chair.