

A meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE of Arlesey Town Council held remotely via Zoom, on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: R Wenham (Chairman) D Shelvey
S Hamilton S Spoor
P Arkle

In attendance: Mrs Janet Bailey (Town Clerk), Mrs Jo Graves (Assistant Clerk) and 1 member of the public were present.

20/010 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Dalgarno and Pang.

20/011 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

(Members of the Council are invited to disclose any personal interest or personal and pecuniary interests they may have in any items on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members)

011.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.
None received.

011.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.
None received

011.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. A request for dispensation must be made on an individual basis.
None Received

20/012 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - *Standing Orders will be suspended at this point and re-instated before proceeding to the next agenda item.*

Standing Orders suspended

Mr R Watson queried EMR levels and asked if it would be better to hold more in specific EMR's rather than in General Reserves.

Hillary Rise Allotments – Mr Watson commented that access should be checked at top of Lyman's Road and that it would be good practice to keep the land clear. When complete the Arlesey Cross development may also provide alternative access to allotments and then funding may be available towards clearing the land.

Standing Orders re-instated

20/013 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To consider and approve the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6th October 2020.

Cllr Spoor asked for an update regarding the apportionment charges from CBC. Cllr Wenham advised the letter had been forwarded, Clerk to chase response from Cllr Gent, CBC Assets.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6th October 2020 be approved and be signed by the Chairman as a true recording of proceedings.

20/014 Recreation Ground Grass Cutting contract 2021/22 – Members considered quotation received for continued grass cutting 2021/22.

Recommendation that Council approve continuation of Greenwood Contracting contract at £100.00 per cut for grass cutting season 2020/21.

20/015 Draft Budget 2021/2022 v2 – Members discussed and considered information contained in draft budget v2 using data as at end Month 7. Discussion followed on all aspects of budget and amendments to be made.

Recommendation: that the Clerk implement the amendments as discussed, circulate amended document and take revised budget to the Town Council meeting 15th December 2020.

20/016 Projects 2021/22- Members considered priority projects for 2021/22 and budget provision required.

***Matter Deferred:* Clerk to compile a list of Council projects for consideration at December meeting of Town Council.**

20/017 Precept Request 2021/22 – Members to consider Precept request and note deadline for submissions 18th January 2021.

***Matter deferred:* Clerk to make requested amendments to Draft Budget v2 and consider impact on Precept request at December meeting of Council.**

20/018 Ear Marked Reserves Review and Forecast - Members to consider Earmarked Reserves Review and Forecast.

***Matter deferred:* to be considered at December Council meeting following revision to Draft Budget v2.**

20/019 2020/21 Finance Review - Members noted detailed income and expenditure year to date.

20/020 Bank Reconciliations – Members noted bank balances to date and noted bank reconciliations to date have been undertaken monthly by RFO and verified by Cllr signatory.

Recommendation: that Council approve process carried out.

20/021 Nationwide Account – Members to approve opening of new 35-day notice account and to transfer maximum of £85,000 from UTB balances held to provide protection within FSCS maximum balances.

Recommendation: that Council approve the opening of the Nationwide 35-day notice account to provide protection under FSCS scheme, same signatory rules and mandate as other existing accounts to be applied.

20/022 Outdoor Gym Ground Works– Members considered quotation received from installer to rectify stability issues experienced during periods of wet weather and prolonged dry weather.

Recommendation: that the Clerk challenge the installation company who failed to install equipment correctly, requesting remedial repairs to be made to rectify at cost of installation company as opposed to Council.

20/023 Hillary Rise Allotment Extension - Members received an update on clearance quotations received and issues highlighted.

Recommendation: that a paper is produced for Council detailing costs, how many allotments could be created and potential income.

20/024 Memorial Copse Path – Members considered quotations received for creation of access path to Memorial Copse and S106 monies available.

***Matter deferred:* not all quotations received.**

20/025 Allotment Holder Bark Request – Members considered request from allotment holder to put bark on path between 2 plots that she is tenant for.

Recommendation: that Council approve Tenant request, and obtain a £40.00 deposit in line with current tenancies, to safeguard against any costs incurred by Council to remove from site should tenancy be relinquished with chippings not removed.

20/026 Resource Centre Computer upgrade – Members considered recommendation and quotation received to upgrade Resource Centre PC’s.

Recommendation: that Council accept quotation received assuming 1hr installation costs to upgrade Resource Centre Manager computer Intel I5 mid 8GB RAM with 21.5” monitor - £714.58 approx. to be funded by EMR 347 – Resource Centre.

20/027 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

There was no public participation.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Chairman.....

Dated.....