

PRESENT: Cllrs: S Hamilton – Vice Chairman S Spoor
I Dalgarno P Arkle
N Stephenson

21-2/052 Apologies for Absence

(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)

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21-2/059 Bank Reconciliations – Members received current bank balances and noted bank reconciliations to date had been undertaken monthly by RFO and verified by Cllr signatory.

The Clerk informed those present that a transfer of £10,000 was to be transferred from the instant access Unity Trust Account to the Current account to safeguard sufficient funds available for March payments.

21-2/060 Transfers from/to Ear Marked Reserves – Members to note and approve transfers carried out in accordance with resolution to approve budget 2021/22, as indicated on Ear Marked Reserves Forecast and Review provided during budget setting process.

Recommendation that council approve transfers as carried out in accordance with EMR movement forecast presented during budget setting.

21-2/061 St Peters Church Trees – Members to consider public Churchyard tree appeal as presented by Cllr Stevenson's

The Clerk explained the conflicting sections of Local Government Act 1894 and 1972 regarding Parish council powers relating to the affairs of a church and would circulate briefing LO1-18 from NALC on Financial Assistance to the church.

Recommendation that the Clerk contact the Vicar/Church Warden for further information on the matter and the tree reports to identify the extent of the problem and bring back to Council for further discussion.

21-2/062 Highways Improvement Scheme Match Funding projects – Members considered proposals and costings for 2 projects- delegated authority to pass a resolution/make a decision granted by full Town Council 22nd February 2022.

i)Village benches and litter bins

Recommendation that the council approve purchase of 4x recycled plastic benches and Eco Steel litter bins as detailed in Assistant Clerk proposal to be supplied and delivered by Broxap for a total sum of ££3,520.80 + VAT, to be sited at the locations specified as approved by CBC Highways Officer, and submit application to Central Bedfordshire Council under the Rural Match Funding Highways Improvement Scheme.

ii)Village gates and planters

Item deferred to next Town Council meeting to enable more quotes to be obtained.

21-2/063 Grass cutting contract 2022/23 – Members considered increased quotation received for continued grass cutting at the recreation ground.

Recommendation that council approve the increase of £5 per cut quoted – price per cut 2022/23 £105.00 + VAT.

21-2/064 Public Participation on Items Arising from this Meeting- *Standing Orders will be suspended at this point and re-instated before proceeding to the next agenda item.* Residents to note: names of speakers may be included in the Formal Minutes and published.

There was no public participation.

21-2/065 EXEMPT BUSINESS

To resolve to exclude members of the public and press from the meeting under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business on the grounds that that this business relates:

Agenda item 21-2/066 and 21-2/067– this business relates to the business or financial affairs of the council.

RESOLVED that members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting under section 1(2) Of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

21-2/066 Resident correspondence regarding cemetery – Members received correspondence and considered drafted response.

Recommendation that the Clerk respond to the letter upholding interment cost as this is council procedure, is recorded in schedule of fees published and issued to Funeral Directors and is in accordance with the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977.

21-2/067 Cemetery Phase 2 – Members considered professional appointment to progress matter on behalf of council.

Recommendation that the council seek further quotations to carry out specified works to progress on behalf of council.

Meeting closed.....

Chairman