

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillors Ellis (Chairman), Bertie, Bustin, Fuller, Jones, Oliver, Peacey Wilcox & Taylor.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; two representatives from the Wessex Cancer Trust; two representatives from St. Mary the Virgin Church, Cowes.

477 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wardrop.

478 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fuller declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 480 (iii) as he uses the Isle of Wight Community Club for his surgeries at no charge.

479 MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 28 January 2020 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

480 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT

The Town Clerk reported that £4,500 remained in the budget for 'Grants'. The Town Council has been asked to consider the following applications for grant:

- i. Wessex Cancer Trust – Crisis Appeal - £1,000.00
- ii. St. Mary the Virgin Church, Cowes – Repair and upgrade of the Church clock - £3,905.00
- iii. Indoor Bowls Section, Isle of Wight Community Club – Proweave Sportsvac Vacuum Cleaner (including 10 dust bags) - £1,873.50

Representatives from the Wessex Cancer Trust advised that the Crisis Appeal has now closed but their request for a grant stands on the grounds that they have to fund raise £144,000 in this financial year specifically to provide services to Isle of Wight residents. They confirmed that any grant given will be used specifically to support the service to Isle of Wight residents.

Representatives from St Mary the Virgin Church, Cowes advised that their clock is 215 years old and it is the brass electronic winding gear that has failed. The life expectancy of a new steel winding gear is approx. 25 / 50 years. The gear is made to order prior to installation.

Councillors acknowledged that to make the grants requested, by all the organisations being considered, would create an overspend in the 'Grants' budget heading. However, it is likely that not all of the £5,000 set aside for the VE Day 75 event will be spent and there are several other budget headings that are underspent in this current financial year.

Councillor Fuller left the meeting while the grant application from the Indoor Bowls Section, Isle of Wight Community Club was discussed and the recommendation made.

After a full discussion it was:

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That a grant be made to Wessex Cancer Trust in the sum of £1,000 to be split equally to support the two daisy buses in Southampton and Portsmouth.**
- 2. That a grant be made to St. Mary the Virgin Church, Cowes in the sum of £3,905.**
- 3. That a grant be made to the Indoor Bowls Section, Isle of Wight Community Club in the sum of £1,000.**
- 4. That the overspend of £1,405 in the 'Grants' budget heading be offset against other budget headings that are underspent.**

481 ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK'S PASSING OF THE CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION (CiLCA)

The Town Clerk was pleased to advise that Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk, has successfully passed her CiLCA qualification which is a great achievement. As a result, and in recognition of this achievement, Kate will automatically receive an additional scale point on her salary as from 7 February 2020. Councillors also thanked the Town Clerk for assisting Kate to achieve this important qualification.

482 STAFFING

There were no other staffing matters raised by Councillors or Clerks.

483 HEALTH AND SAFETY

There were no health and safety matters raised by Councillors or Clerks.

484 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.15pm.

CHAIRMAN