

## COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 23 June 2020 at 6.15pm.

**Present:** Councillors Ellis (Chairman), Bertie, Fuller, Jones, Oliver (6.17pm), Peacey Wilcox (6.16pm) & Taylor (6.18pm).

**In attendance:** Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk.

**485 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**486 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**487 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 25 February 2020 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.**

**488 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 31 MARCH 2020**

The Town Clerk submitted a financial statement for the year 2019 / 2020 giving details of income and expenditure. Councillors discussed each budget heading and the ring fenced and ear marked balances carried forward to 2020 / 2021. The balances in the Town Council's bank accounts and petty cash as at 31 March 2020 were £356,674.27 of which £167,048.29 is ring fenced / ear marked expenditure. The Reserves as at 31 March 2020 were £189,625.98 which represents around seven months operating costs. It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

**That Cowes Town Council receive, note and approve the Financial Statement as at 31 March 2020.**

**489 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

The Projects Committee recommend the following with the costs to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget:

1. The supply and fitting of a new lock for the Town Council's notice board for the sum of £77.89.
2. The repainting of two 'Cowes' entry signs at the Floating Bridge and the seafront for the sum of £320.00.
3. The annual cleaning of 12 plaques at the Bandstand and Francki Place for the sum of £780.00. It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

1. **That Cowes Town Council approves the supply and fitting of a new lock for the Town Council's notice board for the sum of £77.89.**
2. **That Cowes Town Council approves the repainting of two 'Cowes' entry signs at the Floating Bridge and the seafront for the sum of £320.00.**
3. **That Cowes Town Council approves the cost of the annual cleaning of 12 plaques at the Bandstand and Francki Place for the sum of £780.00.**

**4. That the costs of the aforesaid recommendations be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget.**

**490 STAFFING**

The Town Clerks advised Councillors that they are both working from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. They continue to monitor Government advice with regard to returning to the office to work. Councillors felt that some payment should be made to the Clerks to remunerate them for the costs associated with working from home.

It was agreed:

**ACTION**

The Town Clerk will seek advice from the SLCC, NALC and local Town & Parish Clerks in regard to the appropriate subsidy to be awarded to the Clerks whilst they work from home.

**491 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

There were no health and safety matters raised by Councillors or Clerks other than being aware of the current Covid-19 restrictions.

**492 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 6.33pm.

**CHAIRMAN**