

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 26 January 2021 at 6.15pm.

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

In attendance: Councillor Wardrop (non-voting); four representatives from Cowes Heritage and Community Group; Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk.

543 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

544 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Peacey Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 548 as she is a Life Member and Vice President of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Councillor Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 548 as he is a Vice President of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Councillor Bertie declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 548 as he is a Member of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Councillor Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 549 as he is a Vice President of Cowes Heritage and Community Group.

545 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 17 November 2020 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes.

546 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Town Clerk submitted a financial statement for the third quarter of the financial year giving details of income and expenditure. The balances in the Town Council's bank accounts and petty cash as at 31 December 2020 were £579,648.62 of which £154,276.84 is ring fenced /ear marked expenditure. The balance of the budget for 2020 / 2021 is £13,483.71. Reserves are £241,888.07 which represents approximately 9 months running costs. Councillors also discussed the budget headings where unspent funds may need to be carried over at the end of the financial year as ring fenced or ear marked expenditure. Those budget headings being Civic Regalia; Northwood Recreation Grounds Maintenance and Other Grounds Maintenance in Cowes; Northwood Recreation Ground – Skate Park / MUGA / Outdoor gym maintenance; Dog and Litter bin emptying; Cowes Library; Environment Officer; Warmer Cowes; Park Road Crossing Patrol; Discretionary Services Contingency (Place Plan); Street Furniture Maintenance; New Projects; The Big Lunch; public toilet refurbishment programme.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2020 be noted and approved.**
- 2. That the balances in the budget headings, as listed above, be ring fenced or ear marked as appropriate at the financial year end on 31 March 2021.**

547 GRANT RETURNED FROM THE IW MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA FESTIVAL

At the Town Council meeting on 10 December 2020 it was resolved to award the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival a grant of £50. Subsequently the organisers of the Festival have decided that the dance section will not proceed for 2021; the music, speech and drama sections will proceed in a virtual format. In light of this, the costs for the Festival are much less than anticipated and they have therefore decided to return any grants awarded. The cheque for £50 has now been returned to the Town Council and subsequently been cancelled. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write back to the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival to thank them for the return of the cheque and to remind them that they can apply for another grant when conditions allow.

548 APPLICATION FOR GRANT

The Town Clerk reported that £18,700 remains in the budget for 'Grants'. However, at the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting on 22 September 2020 an action was agreed to ring-fence £10,000 for a future grant application from the newly formed Cowes Heritage and Community Group. Also, as the £50 grant to the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival has been returned the balance remaining in the budget for 'Grants' is £8,750.

The Town Council, following answers to questions raised, are reconsidering the following Application for Grant:

- Friends of Northwood Cemetery – Purchase of CCTV - £2,000

After a full discussion, which included a suggestion that Northwood Parish Council and Gurnard Parish Council may wish to make a grant in the future for any further CCTV cameras, it was:

RECOMMENDED

That a grant be made to the Friends of Northwood Cemetery in the sum of £2,000.

549 APPLICATION FOR GRANT

The Town Council have been asked to consider the following Application for Grant:

- Cowes Heritage and Community Group – Building works to the Beckford Centre - £10,000

After a full discussion, whereby confirmation that Planning Permission has been granted and four quotes have been received for the building works, it was:

RECOMMENDED

That a grant be made to the Cowes Heritage and Community Group in the sum of £10,000.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 6.43pm.

550 STAFFING MATTERS

There were no staffing matters raised by Councillors or Clerks.

551 HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

552 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 6.46pm.

CHAIRMAN