

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held in The Dining Room, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 26 July 2022 at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillors Ellis (Chair), Brown, Carter, Jones & Nicholson.

In attendance: Councillor Paler (non-voting); Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk.

659 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bertie.

660 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

**661 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 24 May 2022 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

662 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

The Town Clerk submitted a financial statement for the quarter ending 30 June 2022 giving details of income and expenditure. Councillors looked at the spend against the budget heading and the ring fenced and ear marked balances. The balances in the Town Council's bank accounts and petty cash as at 30 June 2022 were £932,127.94 of which £247,795.57 is ring fenced / ear marked expenditure. The Reserves as at 30 June 2022 were £311,631.75 which represents approximately 12 months operating costs. This falls within the recommended 3 to 12 months reserves as set by the National Association of Local Councils. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council receive, note and approve the Financial Statement as at 30 June 2022.

663 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT

The Town Clerk reported that £12,650 remains in the budget for 'Grants' for the financial year 2022 / 2023. The Town Council have been asked to consider the following Applications for Grant:

- (i) Victim Support – Purchase of security items – £100
- (ii) Isle of Wight Community Club Indoor Bowls Section – Repair to base of the green and replacement underlay - £15,000
- (iii) British Powerboat Racing Club Event Management – Powerboat racing - £2,000

After a full discussion about each Grant Application it was:

RECOMMENDED

- 1. That a grant be made to Victim Support in the sum of £100.**
- 2. That a grant is not made to the Isle of Wight Community Club Indoor Bowls Section. However the Town Council will offer assistance to the applicant should they wish to make a bid for support from a sporting or lottery organisation.**
- 3. That a grant is not made to the British Powerboat Racing Club Event Management.**

664 CONNECT 4 COMMUNITIES GRANT UPDATE

The Town Clerk advised that 20 x £50 Aldi vouchers had been purchased and the application form has been forwarded to the Foodbank in Cowes for them to identify those most in need. Hopefully applications for the vouchers will start to come through to the Town Council.

The Town Clerk will also be contacting the Family Liaison Officers at the three local schools asking them to identify any families in need. This process may take a bit longer as schools have now closed for the summer holidays. It was agreed:

ACTION

This will remain a standing Agenda item until the allocation is complete.

665 REVIEW OF COWES TOWN COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS (MINUTE NO 658 REFERS)

At the Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee meeting held on 24 May 2022 it was agreed that the Committee would look at one of the Town Council's policies or procedures at each meeting. This meeting reviewed Cowes Town Council's Standing Orders. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That no amendments are required to Cowes Town Council's Standing Orders.

666 STAFFING MATTERS

Councillors discussed that there may be a need to employ another member of staff to look into more detail of the Place Plan to enable the project to move forward. Councillors were asked to consider whether there are any suitable candidates known to them and to advise the Town Clerk accordingly.

667 HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

Councillors felt that there should be a standing agenda item to address any concerns that the Clerks may have, particularly in relation to their mental wellbeing.

668 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Review of Financial Regulations
- Clerks' Concerns

The proceedings terminated at 6.47pm.

CHAIRMAN