



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING** of **OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL** held in the in the Meeting Room, 8 Broad Street, Ottery St Mary EX11 1BZ on **WEDNESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2022 at 4.30PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Stewart (**Chair**), Cllrs Grainger, Green (from 4.43pm), Lucas (Deputy Mayor) and Kerry Kennell, CEO

F22/11/01

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Johns (Mayor)

F22/011/02

TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FOR NEW DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIS) DISPENSATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllrs Stewart, Grainger, Lucas and Green had no interests to declare.

F22/11/03

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED): TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were none.

F22/11/04

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY GRANT REQUESTS

The following **RECOMMENDATIONS** were made:

Group	Amount requested	Recommendation
Tipton St John Playing Field Association	£2,000 to undertake and complete community engagement activities and to prepare a report as evidence of community support for improvements to the pavilion building	To invite representative to a meeting/Teams meeting to discuss their application further
Ottery St Mary Joint Guide and Scout Committee – Pixie Day	£300 towards Pixie Day events	To award £300.00.
Tale Valley Trust	£250 towards maintenance of the River Tale corridor	To award £250.00.

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RIO	£2,000 to replace the electrical lighting with more sustainable and energy efficient sources	To invite representative to a meeting/Teams meeting to discuss their application further
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Cllr Green joined the meeting.

F22/11/05

CONSIDERATION OF SHOP FRONT GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The following **RECOMMENDATIONS** were made:

Business	Recommendation
Devon Eco Boutique	£300.00
The Ottery Hound	£250.00
Christopher Piper Wines	£400.00
Cold Harbour Farm	£500.00
Coffee Bank	£179.12

It was noted that some minor amendments to the Terms and Conditions will be made for the next time the scheme is run.

F22/11/06

TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 20th OCTOBER 2022 (minute refs F22/10/01 - F22/10/12)

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 20th October 2022 (minute refs F22/10/01 - F22/10/10) were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting by the Chair.

F22/11/07

TO CONSIDER:-

- a. **A DRAFT BUDGET AND**
- b. **TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE EARMARKED RESERVES AND THE COUNCIL’S CURRENT POLICY DOCUMENT RELATING THERETO**
- c. **TO RECOMMEND A PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022 – 23**

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the budget. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Earmarked Reserves set aside for 2022 – 23 are: Contingency £50,000; Regeneration £50,000; Policy Review £5,000; Grants/Donations £25,000; Building Repairs and Maintenance £100,000. It was concluded that it would not be possible to achieve everything that the Council wishes to achieve without an increase being made to the Precept. Ottery St Mary would still have one of the lowest precepts in East Devon but the increase will enable the Council to move forward with projects and to invest in the parish, particularly maintaining its extensive property portfolio. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the precept for 2022 - 23 is increased by 5% to £256,383.00.

F22/11/08

S106

It was noted that the plans for the MUGA will include extending the pavilion at the North end (towards the car park) although this would be carried out at a later date than the MUGA. Cllr Stewart will be writing to the new S106 Officer at EDDC.

F22/11/09

TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CONTRACT ALTERATIONS REGARDING CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Council extend Contract 1 for a further year at the discounted

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rate; that the additional Christmas trees are required for a further year and that the Council wish to use Encore for a further year for the installation/removal of the lights. It was noted that all the contracts will then expire in 2024 when the Christmas lights for the town will need to be reconsidered.

F22/11/10

TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REVISING THE COMMUNITY GRANT POLICY TO ENABLE GRANT APPLICATIONS TO BE MADE AT ANY TIME OF YEAR (WHILST FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE AGREED BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR GRANTS)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Community Grant Policy is updated to enable grant applications to be made at any time of year (whilst funds are available within the agreed budget allocation for Grants). It was **RESOLVED** that the Community Grant Application Form is updated and an online version produced.

F22/11/11

TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS RELATING TO FINANCE

There were none.

The Meeting Ended at 5.33pm

SIGNATURE OF CHAIR	
DATE OF SIGNATURE	

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