

Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the **Finance Committee Meeting** of Ottery St Mary Town Council held in the Council Chamber, the Old Convent, 8 Broad Street, Ottery St Mary on Wednesday, 31st July 2019 at 2.30pm

PRESENT : Councillor Stewart (**Chairman**), Cllr Grainger (**Vice- Chairman**), Cllrs Dobson, Giles, and Lucas together with Peter Faithfull and the Clerk

F19/07/01

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Pratt

F19/07/02

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

There were none

F19/07/03

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

F19/07/04

TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ACCORDINGLY

The accounts were produced and an explanation provided by the Chairman as to how the figures were arrived at. He confirmed that the Council was on budget; that the accounts were in good shape and there was cash in the bank. The accounts were **RECOMMENDED** for approval

F19/07/05

TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE RE THE COUNCIL'S PROPERTIES AND TO CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A BUSINESS PLAN AND TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME (IF APPROPRIATE)

It was agreed that both items could be discussed as one. After much discussion it was **RECOMMENDED** that the Council produce a five year business plan and that councillors, chairs of committee and the Clerk provide input. The idea was that the plan would provide the Council's strategy for the next five years, and would focus on what the Council wanted to achieve for the parish, the services it wished to provide as a council and the priorities that it was hoped would achieve this vision. The plan could then be handed over to the new council in 2023 which would hopefully assist it in its first year. The Chairman had already produced an initial 'Working Document', to be considered and redrafted as new information was produced. Cllr Lucas offered to assist the Chairman in its production. The Chairman provided a chart showing the income and expenditure of all the Council's properties and suggested that consideration should be given regarding an overview of the Council's property portfolio and in particular the Old Town Hall. The Chairman was of the view that this may be a property that the Council may consider divesting itself of, in the future

F19/07/06

Mayor's Initials.....

TO CONSIDER HOLDING A BARCLAYS WEBINAR PRIOR TO THE NEXT FINANCE CTTE MEETING

It was agreed that this be arranged to take place immediately preceding the next Finance Committee Meeting

F19/07/07

S106/CIL MONIES UPDATE

The Council's S106 fund was made up as follows:-

Generic Play	£22,581
Generic Open Space	£66,192.63
17 Broad Street (OPEN)	£4,692.70
Barnfield House, Cadhay (OPEN)	£7,395.73
Gerway Nurseries (OPEN)	£96,553.00
Redrow (SPORT)	£115,000.00
CIL	£4,192.75
	BOLD = £92,966.38
	REMAINING=£223,641.43
	TOTAL= £316,607.81

The monies shown in bold were now available to the Council. The remaining monies were due but could be subject to variation/revisions of S106 agreements. The Chairman had produced a draft table showing suggested areas as to how the funding could be used, which was considered. Further suggestions ranged for some of the money to be used for play provision in Winters Land and the Land of Canaan. However as both areas of land were owned by EDDC, its consent would have to be obtained in the first instance. The Clerk to contact Sulina Tallack, EDDC's S106 officer about the proposal. It was also noted that the process should (quite rightly) require the engagement of local children and it was suggested that the local primary school be involved. It was noted that as these play provision requirements were already contained in the Neighbourhood Plan then there would be no need to go out to public consultation. A further suggestion was that a second access to the skate park be funded from S106 funds, in view of the gates to the park being locked at various times by the school, due to safeguarding issues. The Clerk advised that she was in regular contact with the NPS Surveyor who had dealt with the skate park initially, and would talk to her about this request. The need for play provision in Alfington was also mentioned. However the difficulty appeared to be finding land available in the area for such a project. It was **RECOMMENDED** that Cllr Johns be approached in the first instance in view of her living in the vicinity, and for her to advise on any potential sites and landowners who may be willing to consider part of their land being used for such a purpose. It was further **RECOMMENDED** that there should be no engagement with social media at this stage; that there should be proper and full public consultation; that an item be placed in the Alfington Pump regarding the proposed S106 expenditure and that an open evening in the Institute be arranged

F19/07/08

TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS RELATING TO FINANCE

Cllr Lucas made the suggestion of using council monies towards the funding of the local hospital and/or health provision. There was much debate about this with differing opinions. The Chairman suggested that at the next Property and Land Committee meeting, the property portfolio should be reviewed, followed by the Committee's plans for the portfolio going forward, and whether any properties should be sold off which would provide revenue. He also suggested that the Council could build into its 5 year business plan, monies for the hospital in an attempt to keep it open

F19/07/9

TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

To be arranged

Meeting Closed at 15.40pm

Mayor's signature: Date:.....

Mayor's Initials.....

Mayor's Initials.....