



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING** of **OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL** held on **THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2021** at **3PM**. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Councillor Stewart (**Chair**), Cllrs Grainger, Lucas and Green (until 4.10 pm), Christine McIntyre, CEO and Kerry Kennell, Deputy CEO

F21/11/01

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Mayor and Cllr Giles.

F21/11/02

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

No interests were declared.

F21/11/03

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 no items to be excluded.

F21/11/04

TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 25TH JUNE 2021

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 25th June 2021 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

F21/11/05

SECTION 106:

a) Winters Lane Play Area

Sutcliffe Play have been appointed as the suppliers and it is hoped the new play area will be installed by Spring 2022.

b) Land of Canaan

Cllr Green offered to lead this work and Cllr Lucas offered to help with the project. This will involve a bridge at either end, a structure for young people and an open shelter and will be looked at by the Regeneration and Climate Action Committee. A public consultation will need to take place.

c) Strawberry Lane proposed MUGA

This is currently being advertised on the government website. Planning permission will be required and EDDC has confirmed that the application will require the following information:-a map of the site, a layout plan of the pitches, provision and access; Lighting – position of lights, LUX levels, what they will be erected on; Ecology survey - to see if there are bats; Flood Risk Assessment – including flooding risks and means of escape; Parking information; Details of

Chair`s Initials.....

what surface the MUGA will have. Sport England will help with the application and offer a free pre-application advice service.

Once the above projects are completed Cllr Stewart intends to work with EDDC to establish exactly what Section 106 funds are available for future projects.

F21/11/06

UPDATE REGARDING THE ANNUAL GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SO FAR

The intention is to meet all grant applicants who have applied for a grant, (face-to-face) early next year. The CEO will check the current policy to see what is stated regarding any left-over funds from a grant application and whether a stipulation can be added whereby any left-over monies can be returned to the Council. It was felt that the Council should be acknowledged for supporting community events. It was suggested that successful applicants should write a summary of how their grant funding had been used and the success of the project.

F21/11/07

TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RE ROOM HIRE CHARGES FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING ROOM/CHAMBER

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the room hire charges remain the same for 2022/23.

F21/11/08

TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RE TENANTS RENTALS

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the tenants rentals remain the same for 2022/23.

F21/11/09

TO CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2022-23

It was noted that co-opted Councillors are not eligible for an allowance. It was **RECOMMENDED** that Members Allowances increase in line with EDDC increases.

F21/11/10

TO CONSIDER STAFF SALARIES 2022/23 AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

It was noted that the pay increase for 2021/22 has still not been agreed with the unions. It was **RECOMMENDED** that staff salaries increase in line with their terms of employment and NALC recommendations.

F21/11/11

TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN CEMETERY FEES AND OTHER ASSOCIATED CEMETERY COSTS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Cemetery Fees increase by 5% from 1 April 2022.

F21/11/12

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 2021-2022**

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There was a lengthy discussion regarding the budget. It was concluded that it would not be possible to achieve everything that the Council wishes to achieve without a significant increase being made to the Precept. It was noted that currently Ottery St Mary has the lowest Precept in East Devon but this makes it difficult for when the Council wishes to move forward with projects and to invest in the parish. It was agreed that the appointment of youth workers at the Ottery Hub are essential to move things forward. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Precept for 2022-23 should be increased to £245,000.

F21/11/13

TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS RELATING TO FINANCE

No questions were raised.

Meeting Ended 5.20pm

SIGNATURE OF CHAIR	
DATE OF SIGNATURE	

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