

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

22nd September 2020 at 6.30 pm, Virtual Meeting

Minutes

(Please note that all Councillors are now members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.)

1. APOLOGIES
CLLRS RAPHAEL

PRESENT: CLLRS COAKLEY, GOLD, TOLMAN, LONG, MORGAN, TAGG (CHAIR) & WATSON

OFFICER: TOWN CLERK & ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK
FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE OFFICER FOR IT SUPPORT

2. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Tolman seconded by Cllr Coakely and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd June 2020 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING
None.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST
To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

None.

5. FINANCE

a) Approval of Payments - It was proposed by Cllr Coakley seconded by Cllr Gold and agreed unanimously to approve the payments as listed;

TH	DD	Clear Business	Electricity charges - new offices	98.17	5.43	103.60
OS/TH	DD	All star	Fuel for September	60.98	12.20	73.18
FGP		Rachael's Flowers	Wedding anniversary flowers	35.00		35.00
FGP		Sea Dog IT	August Monthly web host and maintenance	25.00		25.00

FGP	Cornwall Council	Parking attendance CEO provision	163.80		163.80
TH	Barron Surveying Services	Inspection DDA Unit 19 Pannier Market	225.00	45.00	270.00
FGP	CPC	Micro SDHC - allotment CCT	39.96	7.99	47.95
TH/OS	W F Coombe & Son	Christmas Trees 2019	398.00	79.60	477.60
			1045.91	150.22	1196.13

b) Budget Monitoring

The Clerk/RFO had previously circulated some information and gave an update on the financial positions of the other committees. She reported that this committee had not had to incur expenditure from events such as Twinning, Film Shows etc as these had all been cancelled due to COVID. The Clerk reported that this committee had an underspend and suggested that some of this money be put into reserves for future events. She reported that this committee also handled the Pasty Mural Project funding and that this had all gone very well, there had been some further expenditure since the information was circulated. The committee was in a position to move funds into the reserves, which included some funds from the Council Tax Support Grant, to put aside for various projects such as the Market, when it restarts.

Noted.

c) To receive any Statement of Works for setting the budget requirement for this committee

The Clerk/RFO had previously circulated information with proposals from the other committees. For this committee the Clerk/RFO and Chair had suggested two proposals being the increase in salaries, NI and pensions and to put forward a proposal to replace Councillor electronic tablets. The suggested proposition is initially to purchase tablets from the reserve funds but to have a rolling programme to replace them as and when their functionality becomes obsolete.

A discussion took place as to the legal obligation to increase salaries, NI and pensions and the fact that the current Councillor tablets are no longer fit for purpose ie. to carry out Council meetings via Zoom etc. Cllr Watson questioned the necessity and cost of replacing tablets to which the Clerk responded that it could be that, going forward, Council meetings carried out via Zoom could become normality and therefore Councillors would require devices that could accommodate

this and allow them to carry out their role efficiently. She would need to financially prepare for this eventuality particularly with elections next year and the probability of new Councillors.

Resolved. It was proposed by Cllr Tagg seconded by Cllr Coakley and unanimously agreed that a provision be put in the precept to allow for the increase in salaries, NI and Pensions in line with NJC legislation.

Resolved. It was proposed by Cllr Long seconded by Cllr Gold and agreed that a provision be put into the precept to allow for the purchase of Councillor tablets with a rolling replacement programme when required. (6 support 1 against)

Cllr Moore joined the meeting.

6. To receive any Mural updates and agree any actions required.

Cllr Tagg gave an update on the current situation with Pasty Mural Project. He reported that the evaluation from the HLF had been completed; this evaluation was carried out to ensure that the grant money had been spent wisely. He reported that the project had come in under budget, including the contingency fund, due to some of the planned events having to be cancelled due to COVID.

Phase 2 of the project, three murals to go up on the Lloyds Pharmacy wall. Cllr Tagg reported that one of the murals had already been completed and received. The other two would be completed by the end of the month. It was hoped that they could all be erected on the wall by the end of the month or beginning of October. A press release had been submitted to local newspapers and would be included in the Callington News in December.

Phase 3 of the project, the replacement of the old murals with new ones or adding murals. These being the Viking Longship in the New Road North car park, wall at Pear Tree Bungalow on Well Street, Farrier Shop mural on Tanyards Lane, three murals on the Pharmacy wall which will be replaced every year and a new mural on the Town Hall. Cllr Tagg was in the process of getting permission from owners of buildings/premises to replace/add murals. A grant application to the Arts Council would be submitted for these murals and the Project Manager was in the process of completing this very lengthy form, it was hoped that this would be submitted by the end of October. Cllr Tagg requested funds from this committee to pay the Project Manager for completing and submitting this grant application to the sum of £750.

Resolved. It was proposed by Cllr Tagg seconded by Cllr Gold and agreed to pay the Project Manager the sum of up to £750. (7 support 1 against)

7. To receive any CCTV updates and agree any action

Cllr Tagg reported that, following a recent issue with some of the cameras, Full Stop had been out to investigate and had replaced the problematic cameras with brand new ones, at no cost. The intention to place a camera hub at the traffic lights cross roads had received much support from the Police Inspector, local police team, Councillors and local community groups. An application was then made to Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for funding and Cornwall Council has also been approached requesting funding

The meeting was adjourned at 7.00pm for the Full Council meeting

The meeting reconvened at 7.25pm - Cllr Long and Cllr Morgan left the meeting.

8. To collate all the committees' budget proposals for 2021/2022 in order to put forward a collective precept proposal to Full Council

The Clerk/RFO updated the Committee that, with the proposals from the Town Hall Committee, the Outside Service Committee and the previously discussed proposals from the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the figures totalled £45,500. She explained that if the tax base stayed the same, this figure would equate to a rise of £23.85 per annum on the average Band D property, which was just under £2 a month for the Town Council element of the Council Tax bill. However, the tax base may change if the number of properties in the Parish increase meaning the precept would be shared between more properties although adjustments may be made by Cornwall Council to consider bad debts. Cllr Watson questioned the figure from lost income from Town Hall bookings, he commented that other businesses have had to absorb these costs and review their spending arrangements. His concern was that this loss of income could extend to further than six months and questioned whether the Town Council could continue to raise the precept to counteract this loss. Cllr Tolman stated that was imperative that the Town Council held a good financial budget to provide and support the people of the Parish.

Resolved. It was proposed by Cllr Tagg seconded by Cllr Coakley and agreed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee accepts the collective precept proposal put forward by the Committees. (5 support 1 against)

9. Any other Business

The Town Clerk reported that the Practice Manager at the Health Centre was very pleased that their request to use of the Free Car Park over three weekends, had been approved.

The Trustees for the Labouring Poor allotments were asked by the Clerk how they wanted to proceed with the annual rents for next year, given that the rents for the Haye Road site had been increased.

Resolved. It was proposed by Cllr Gold seconded by Cllr Tolman and agreed by the Trustees present that the rents be increased in line with the Haye Road allotment rents, being £40 per annum from October 2020 to be seen on the invoices in September 2021.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 7.38pm