

Whitchurch Town Council

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Finance Committee

Minutes of the Virtual Finance Committee held on Thursday 10th September 2020 via Zoom

Virtual committee held due to the Coronavirus Pandemic lockdown restrictions

Councillors: A. Chesters, S. Hamlyn, J. Sinnott, B. Duffy,

Also in attendance:

Cllr Andy Hall

Zoë Dean – Town Centre Manager/Assistant Town Clerk

1 member of the public

44. Apologies

Cllr J. Martin – work commitment

Cllr R. Shepherd – work commitment

45. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

46. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,

It was **FIN/32/2021 RESOLVED** to sign and accept the minutes as an accurate record of the Additional Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd July 2020.

47. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Duffy,

It was **FIN/33/2021 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to invite the public to make representations and ask questions.

Cllr Hall asked a question regarding the raked seating motion, where the £50,000 sits in the budget and how will the committee mitigate Civic Centre losses caused by the pandemic?

Cllr Chesters answered that the £50,000 was allocated to the refurbishment of the Civic Centre, stating that he was unsure which committee had control over the funds, but he would look into it.

Following a proposal by Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy,

It was **FIN/34/2021 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

48. Accounts

The Chairman reported that the Town Council had lost £26,000 in five months, yet the costs remained the same, noting that could leave a shortfall of £50,000 by the

end of the year. The committee requested that an item was included on the upcoming Full Council agenda to discuss how to make savings.

After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Chesters, It was **FIN/35/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the accounts for Months 4 and 5.

49. Monthly Purchase Ledger, BACS and Cheque Payments.

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, It was **FIN/36/2021 RESOLVED** to approve the Purchase Ledger, BACS and Cheque payments for months 4 and 5.

50. Council Credit Card

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, It was **FIN/37/2021 RESOLVED** to approve the Credit Card payments for July and August 2020.

51. Petty Cash

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, It was **FIN/38/2021 RESOLVED** to receive and sign the monthly Petty Cash ledger.

52. Earmarked Reserves & Doubtful Debts

Items 52 and 52 were handled together.

53. Doubtful Debts

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, It was **FIN/39/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the proposal and send the Debt Collection Agency Request to Full Council.

54. Street Lights

The Town Centre Manager updated the committee on this item, noting that at the February 2020 Full Council meeting it had been agreed to take the remainder of the LED street lighting balance from 'Capital Projects' which was a heading that no longer existed.

Following a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Chesters, It was **FIN/40/2021 RESOLVED** to take the remaining balance out of CIL, whichever is the most appropriate fund for the purpose of infrastructure.

55. COVID-19 Fund

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, It was **FIN/41/2021 RESOLVED** to ratify the decision to provide £99.60 to the Whitchurch Scouts for the purpose of providing automatic hand sanitiser dispensers.

56. Confidential Business

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, It was **FIN/42/2021 RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

57. NJC National Salary Award 2020-2021

The Chairman noted this item had already been included in the budget. Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, It was **FIN/43/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the NJC National Salary Award 2020-2021.

58. Shropshire County Pension Fund – Employer Report

The Employer Report was noted.

Meeting closed 19:28

Chairman:

Date:

DRAFT