

Whitchurch Town Council

Civic Centre
Whitchurch
SY13 1AX

website: www.whitchurchcouncil.uk



High Street
Shropshire
tel. 01948 665761

email: clerk@whitchurchcouncil.uk

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD BY ZOOM ON THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2020 COMMENCING 7pm

Present: Cllrs: A. Chesters, S. Hamlyn, B. Duffy and J. Sinnott.

The Chair advised that the meeting was being recorded and asked for confirmation if anyone else was recording. It was confirmed that no one was recording.

In Attendance:

Cllr M. Haynes
Cllr A. Hall (joined the meeting at 7.25pm)
Zoë Dean – Acting Town Clerk
Gillian Bailey – Locum Support Officer
4 x members of the public

84. Apologies

John Martin – prior engagement.

85. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

86. Minutes

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,
It was **FIN/76/2021 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held 12th November 2020 were a true record of the meeting. The Chair signed the minutes for return to the Council offices.

87. Public Participation

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,
It was **FIN/77/2021 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of public participation.

No members of the public wished to speak.

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy,
It was **FIN/78/2021 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

88. Accounts Month 8

In response to a question, the locum support officer confirmed that a formal complaint had now been raised regarding the water rates.

It was suggested that progress on this be tabled for another meeting.

Following a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Duffy,
It was **FIN79/2021/RESOLVED** to accept and sign the accounts for month 8 as presented.

89. Monthly Purchase Ledger, BACS and Cheque Payments

Following a proposal by Cllr Chesters seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, it was **FIN/80/2021 RESOLVED** to accept and sign the purchase ledger, BACS and cheque payments for month 8 as presented to the committee.

90. Council Credit Card

Following a proposal by Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy it was **FIN/81/2021 RESOLVED** to accept and sign the credit card payments record as put before the committee.

91. Covid-19 Emergency Fund

Payments for council administrative expenses related to Covid-19 have been re-allocated. The committee noted the new report. The request from SJT School for funding would be brought to the next committee meeting.

92. Electric Meter Monitoring

The committee discussed the requirement from the supplier for a phone line for meter readings. It was suggested that SALC might be able to offer advice on solutions other Councils have found to purchasing and managing energy suppliers.

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **FIN/82/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation in the report to install a phone line subject to clarification and further investigation into alternative options, and providing that the line was suitable for other energy providers to use.

93. Earmarked Reserves and CIL

The Chair advised that there was just over £20,000 left unallocated in the CIL fund with approximately £8,000 due for 2020/2021.

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **FIN/83/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the report.

94. CNE

To approve the following costs:

a) Fees associated with legal work in preparation of the lease

The Chair advised that costs would need to be vired from the unspent budget heading 208/4032.

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **FIN/84/2021 RESOLVED** to appoint Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors to act on behalf of Whitchurch Town Council in respect of the lease between Whitchurch Town Council and Shropshire Council and the sub-lease.

There was one abstention.

b) Buildings insurance

The locum support officer reported that she was awaiting confirmation of reinstatement value in order to pursue competitive quotes.

95. Budget Setting 2021/22

The Chair reported that the initial budget forecast based on submissions by each committee required a budget of £573,100 which would require a precept increase of 16/17% or use of reserves. It was agreed that there was still a lot of work to be done on the budget.

Following a proposal by Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Chesters, it was **FIN/85/2021 RECOMMENDED** to hold an Extraordinary budget meeting of Full Council to discuss the budget in detail on 7th January 2021.

96. Confidential Business

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy it was **FIN/ 86/2020 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.

97. Motion from Cllr Sinnott

Following a discussion Cllr Sinnott withdrew his motion.

Signed

Date