



G38.

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL (GENERAL PURPOSE AND FINANCE) 17 NOVEMBER 2020

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman of the Full Council, Councillor R Williams, made the following announcement:-

“I would like to take this opportunity to inform the public that our Town Clerk David Lane, has expressed his wish to retire and has tendered his resignation, which I have accepted. He will leave us at the end of December after 25 years of service to the Council and Community of Highworth.

I would like to thank him for the dedication guidance and support and wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.”

#### PRESENT

Councillor: K Smith (In the Chair)

Councillor: (Mrs) K Barber  
A Bishop  
(Mrs) J Bishop  
G Evans  
N Gardiner  
(Miss) J Murphy  
P Newton-Smith  
G Olley  
(Mrs) M Penny  
K Saunders  
(Mrs) L Vardy  
S Weisinger  
R Williams  
S Wolfensohn



## IN ATTENDANCE

Six Members of the Public, one Member of the Press, Mr J Webster and Ms P Adams (SN6-Wheelers) and Mr I Webb (Visit Highworth)

## APOLOGIES

49. None.

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes limit).

50. None.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

51. Councillors K Saunders, K Smith, R Williams, S Wolfensohn, A Bishop, (Mrs) J Bishop and P Newton-Smith have received Dispensations to participate in discussion and any vote relating to the Highworth Visitor Centre application for funding.

All Councillors have received Dispensations to participate in the discussion and debate of the Precept.

## CORRESPONDENCE

52. An email has been received from the Officer at Swindon Borough Council in charge of Section 106 (S106) contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). There is some S106 money available that Highworth Town Council is able to apply for, which must be spent in accordance with the 'pot' that it was put into. In this instance £7,239.54 towards Playing Pitches and Play Areas with a further £5,312.27 to Public Realm contribution towards the enhancement of the Town Centre of Highworth (with a further £1000.00 towards Public Realm or Public Art in Highworth).

The Town Council can apply for the funds provided the project for which it is requested conforms to the purpose for which it was intended.

Highworth Town Council also receives a 25% Neighbourhood Proportion as we have a Neighbourhood Plan. The CIL Regulations state that:-

***'59C.— Application of CIL by local councils***

*A local council must use CIL receipts passed to it in accordance with regulation 59A or 59B to support the development of the local council's area, or any part of that area, by funding—*

*(a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure;*

*or*

*(b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.'*

The amount of CIL money so far paid to Highworth Town Council is shown on the General Purpose & Finance budget spreadsheets sent to Councillors. Money received from CIL is to be used within 5 years or must be repaid to Swindon Borough Council.

Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and Seconded by Councillor A Bishop to earmark £30,000.00 of CIL funds currently held by Highworth Town Council to fund the support Grant already agreed for Halo. This will alleviate some of the increase in the Precept. This is not in addition to the monies already agreed. Voting was unanimously in favour and the Resolution was duly carried.

## **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

53. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL (GENERAL PURPOSE AND FINANCE) MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2020 BE ADOPTED.**

The Minutes were duly adopted and are to be signed.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

54. The Dovecote is to be an Agenda item at the next Full Council Meeting.

## **SKATE BOARD PARK UPDATE**

55. Funding for the Skate Park build currently sits at £86,264.00 made up of fundraising and monies pledged. The build cost quote has expired and the new cost has increased from £100,000.00 plus VAT to £105,000.00 plus VAT leaving a shortfall in funding of £39,736.00

Mr Webster reported that BIFFA are unwilling to proceed with the Funding Application as they have now decided that SN-SIX WHEELED SPORTS must be a signatory to the Rec lease, Mr Webster is attempting to change this decision. The application to Westmill Solar for £10,000.00 is awaiting a decision.

Mr Webster is to contact the Deputy Clerk in relation to possible CIL or S106 money that may be available.

Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and Seconded by Councillor R Williams to increase the funding pledged from Highworth Town Council by £15,000.00 taking the total pledge to £65,000.00. Voting was unanimously in favour and the Resolution was duly carried.

## **VISIT HIGHWORTH GRANT APPLICATION**

56. The Deputy Clerk is to re-circulate the Visit Highworth Business Plan to all Councillors.

Mr Webb reported that the Visitor Centre is stocked with local products crafted by local people and has a high footfall, this can be seen by the records kept by the Staff and the comments left in the visitors book showing how far people have travelled. It is anticipated that the grant would be required for a 3 year period. The accounts have been circulated to all Councillors.

The request is to release £12,000.00 already the budgeted for 2020/21 and then a further £12,000.00 for the financial year 2021/22 and £12,000.00 for the financial year 2022/23.

An amendment to the Resolution to provide funding to the Visitor Centre was proposed.

Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and Seconded by Councillor S Weisinger that the funding request be put on hold until the Planning Permissions are in place. Voting was 6 in favour, 8 against and 1 abstention. The Resolution was not carried.

Resolved by Councillor K Saunders and Seconded by Councillor R Williams that the £12,000.00 within the current year's precept be approved and the future 2 years to be discussed at a future Meeting. Voting was 7 in favour, 6 against and 2 abstentions. The Resolution was duly carried.

#### **TO AGREE THE PRECEPT DEMAND FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022**

57. The Earmarked reserves shown within the Precept Proposal are allocated for a specific purpose and the funds are carried forward from one year to the next until spent.

Resolved by Councillor K Smith and Seconded by Councillor R Williams that the Precept Demand for the year 2021/2022 be £591,250.00 (Five hundred and ninety one thousand, two hundred and fifty pounds) as shown at pages G43 to G47. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the Resolution and it was duly carried.

#### **ACCOUNTS**

58. The Accounts listed on pages G48 to G54 were accepted and payment of bills authorised.

#### **MEMBERS BUSINESS**

59. a. Councillor L Vardy: Grant Funding Form is to be a future Agenda item on General Purpose and Finance.

**The Meeting closed at 8:16 pm.**

Actions

- The Dovecote is to be an Agenda item at the next Full Council Meeting.
- Mr Webster is to contact the Deputy Clerk in relation to possible CIL or S106 money that may be available.
- The Deputy Clerk is to re-circulate the Visit Highworth Business Plan to all Councillors.
- Grant Funding Form is to be a future Agenda item on General Purpose and Finance.

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