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## **SOHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Soham Town Council Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held at the Walter Gidney Pavilion, Fountain Lane, recreation ground, Soham on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**Present:** Cllrs E Johnston, D Woricker, G Woodbridge and C Warner.  
M Strand, Town Clerk.

**In attendance:** There was one member of the public present.

The meeting was opened at 10:30am.

### **MINUTES**

**FP12/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Anne Pallett (personal).

**FP13/22 COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

**FP14/22 APPROVAL OF MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING**

- a) APPROVED unanimously the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**FP15/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a. APPROVED unanimously – budget proposals and precept recommendation to Full Council as follows: -
- Precept rise of £2.00 per Band D property (1.75%) in line with previous years' increases.
  - Councillor allowances – increase from £5,000 to £7,500 to cover potential 15 Councillors.
  - Planning consultancy – budget £10,000 for help with responses to large developments.
  - Electronic gates – decrease from £40,000 to £5,000 as a more realistic figure (this project may not go ahead).
  - Skatepark – increase from £100,000 to £150,000. Costs will be dependent on whether the skatepark is replaced or repaired/extended.
  - Pavilion Phase II and demolition of back hall - £200,000 (likely overall cost to be approximately £1.2m).

- Cemetery chapel repairs – this may need increasing; quotations awaited for further necessary repairs.
- Chapel repairs legal fees – budget £10,000 to pursue a claim against the previous contractor.
- Cemetery – Hopkins land (preparation and surveys) – budget £17,000.
- Neighbourhood Plan – increase from £1,000 to £2,000.
- Minor Highways Improvement/Local Highways Improvement – to be one budget line, £10,000.
- Civic and ceremonial – decrease from £10,000 to £5,000.
- Drayton Meadows – budget £10,000.
- Soham to Wicken Cycleway – budget £10,000 for general maintenance.
- The budget for CCTV (£12,000) and the budget for cemetery public toilet (£20,000) were removed. CCTV will be paid for in the current financial year and the public toilet at the cemetery has been reinstated at the expense of a member of the public.

Proposed Cllr Johnston, seconded Cllr Woodbridge.

- b. NOTED update on purchase of land – Cllr Johnston said that the conveyancing for this purchase has been further delayed because the vendor does not have the Title Deed and this needs to be applied for to HM Land Registry. HM Land Registry is currently taking between nine months to a year to process applications.

**FP16/22      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (one week later due to Christmas and New Year).

The meeting was closed at 11:40am.

Approved and signed 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023