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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 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

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

**In attendance:** There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was opened at 10:35am.

### **MINUTES**

**FP24/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received – Cllr Woodbridge was absent.

**FP25/23 COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**FP26/23 APPROVAL OF MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING**

- a) APPROVED unanimously the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**FP27/23 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a. NOTED update on purchase of land from Cllr Johnston. The contracts are being drawn up for the purchase of the land for the cemetery extension (Millcroft Allotments).
- b. APPROVED unanimously quotation from Rialtas for year-end clearance of accounts and bank reconciliations - £755.00 +VAT.
- c. NOTED report from Cllr Johnston on community support. The Council has given £16,194.31 in this financial year in community grants, although it was acknowledged that this includes a grant towards the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of £10,000. The Council's overall budget for grants to the community this year is £10,000. The Council has also given 26.30 hours per week of free pavilion hire to community groups which amounts to £12,492.00+VAT per year at charity/community pricing, or £24,804.00 +VAT if the same hours were charged at full price. The purpose of the report was to highlight the amount given to support community groups in the Council's area, and to remind Councillors of the budget in relation to other applications in this financial year.

**FP28/23 RECREATION GROUND/PAVILION/TOWN MATTERS**

- a. APPROVED unanimously request from Living Sport to deliver ‘taster sessions’ in school holidays (Easter and May half term) on the recreation ground and Kingfisher Drive and to waive the cost of hiring the recreation ground. Proposed Cllr Johnston, seconded Cllr Woricker.

**FP29/23 MOTION TO EXCLUDE**

RESOLVED – under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**FP30/23 STAFFING MATTERS**

- a. APPROVED unanimously to pay, as a lump sum, back pay of half an hour per week for two years for each of the Council’s groundsmen. Proposed Cllr Johnston, seconded Cllr Woricker.

**FP31/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

The meeting was closed at 11:10am.

Approved and signed: