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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 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

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

**In attendance:** There was 1 member of the public present.

The meeting was opened at 10am.

### **MINUTES**

**FP05/22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**FP06/22. COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**FP07/22 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- a. Drayton Meadows – to consider and approve quotation from FWAG East Consultancy Ltd for £1,200 +VAT for enhancement plan – it was proposed by Cllr Johnston and seconded by Cllr Warner and approved unanimously to recommend to Full Council that the Council's Land Agent should put together a plan for the land, in consultation with Councillors and local residents with knowledge of the area. The quotation was therefore not approved.

APPROVED: It was agreed to allow yellow rattle seeds to be sown over the land, cost £19.50 +VAT.

Cllr G Woodbridge joined the meeting at 10:23am.

- b. NOTED: Land Use Strategy for recommendation to Full Council – Cllr Johnston has asked the Land Agent to provide a synopsis of his recommendations for consideration at the Full Council meeting in November.
- c. NOTED: existing land valuations and possible future land purchases – Cllr Johnston said that the purchase of land to extend the cemetery is progressing. A wider strategy for land purchase and use is needed to provide facilities for sport, open spaces, dog walking and possibly a crematorium.
- d. APPROVED for recommendation to Full Council – projects for 2023-24 budget as follows: -
- Skatepark (£100,000)

- Large goalposts for recreation ground (£5,000)
  - Water supply to Weatherall's allotments (£8,000)
  - Demolition of pavilion back hall (£80,000)
  - Speeding signs (£10,000)
  - Local Highways Initiative (£10,000)
  - Fountain Lane toilets - £27,000 of funding from ECDC or for ECDC to refurbish them.
  - Land for sporting facilities, green spaces, crematorium (£150,000)
  - CCTV (£12,000).
  - Repairs to the flint wall around the churchyard – establish whether the Council owns this and is responsible for its maintenance.
  - Pavilion re-build – begin to earmark reserves each year towards this.
- APPROVED unanimously – proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Warner.

The Clerk said that this year's budget would have to be based on the first quarter of this financial year's expenditure as year to date figures would not be available.

- e. NOTED: Policies are being reviewed and updated for consideration by Full Council.
- f. NOTED: Staff contracts, appraisals and pay review – contracts will be drawn up and pay recommendations put forward for consideration by Full Council.

**FP08/22      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold meetings on the first Monday of each month at 10:30am. The next meeting will therefore be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

The meeting was closed at 11:27am.

Approved and signed 08.11.22.