

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held at the Pavilion, Soham, on Friday 23rd September 2022.

Present: Cllrs E Johnston, D Woricker, A Pallett and C Warner, Marilyn Strand (Clerk).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Woodbridge.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

This was an informal meeting with matters for discussion only. It was agreed that formal meetings should be reinstated and the Clerk will facilitate this.

- Bank account signatories - current signatories are Cllrs Aitchison, Johnston, Pallett and Warner and the Assistant Clerk. The Clerk and at least one other Councillor need to be added.
- Cllr Johnston will remind Councillors at the next meeting regarding the use of Council email addresses and appropriate distribution of emails.
- Only one quotation had been received for work at the cemetery chapel; five contractors had been contacted. Further quotations will be sought to be considered at the October meeting.
- Cllr Warner gave an overview of income regarding the allotments. Current income per year is £3,994 with the potential for a further £3,341 per year if all plots were made available. The purchase of a 'topper' would enable the Council to bring more plots into use. A proposal will be brought forward at the October meeting to consult allotment holders on changes to the terms and conditions of rent.
- Cllr Warner reported that Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) had no objection to running CCTV cables under public right of way no. 46. However, a response is awaited from CCC as to whether a Wayleave is necessary.
- Cllr Warner will give an update at the October meeting on This Land.
- Budget 2023-24 – Cllr Pallett will put forward a proposal for the budget to include civic expenditure for Twinning.
- Mayor's chains – a new chain had been purchased under delegated powers. A medallion for the chain will be discussed at a future meeting. It was noted that the Mayor of Soham does not have, or intend to have, a budget for clothing or transport.
- It was agreed to recommend to full council not to fund the porta-loos for the beer festival as this would set a precedent for other organisations to have similar expenses paid for by the Council.
- It was agreed to recommend to full council that TENS licences should be applied for to cover events rather than a premises licence which would have to be applied for in an individual's name.
- It was confirmed that the Remembrance Parade is an event organised by the Royal British Legion. STC applies and pays to have the road closed and pays for the insurance.
- Cllr Woricker reported that two quotations had been received from architects in regard to Phase II, to be considered at the September meeting.

- It was agreed to recommend to full council not to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor arrangements.
- Cllr Johnston would like to put forward proposals for the budget for a new skate park, Phase II redevelopment and public toilets.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

The meeting was closed at 11:45am.

DRAFT