

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

*This meeting was a video conference call.*

PRESENT Councillors: M Thorpe (Chairman)  
Mrs T Coombs  
Mrs L Dedden  
S Flower  
S Gibson  
Mrs S Grove  
P Mann  
M Parker  
Ms J Russell  
Miss B Salmon  
Miss K Stephens

Apologies from Cllr: Mrs P Morrow

Also in attendance: Mrs.V.J.Bright, Town Clerk & Mrs.J.Se bire, Assistant Town Clerk.

Public: 0

112/20 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations.

None.

113/20 Clerk's Report.

- a) New Forest District Council sent an email regarding their Consultation on the Draft Mitigation for Recreational Impacts on New Forest European Sites Supplementary Planning Document. The email was copied to all Members and was noted
- b) Speed Camera, a request has been made by a resident for consideration to be given for a speed camera on the Distributor Road between Crane Drive and Manor Road. Discussion took place and as this site had been considered before, Dorset Councillors would communicate with the portfolio holder at Dorset Council to investigate.
- c) A request had been made for the Town Council to publicise the Speed Watch and ask if any members of the public are willing to volunteer. Councillor S.Gibson stated he would be happy to be the contact on behalf of the council.
- d) DAPTC second Phase of DAPTC Constitution Review - Area Committees Survey (Eastern Area Committee) Members were asked to fill in the questionnaire individually. The Clerk would send the link to all members.

114/20 Monthly Budgets.

The monthly budget reports for December 2020 would be circulated at the Full Town Council meeting.

115/20 To appoint two members to review the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit.

Following discussion, it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that Councillors M.Parker and M.Thorpe be appointed to review the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit.

116/20 Funding for the Jubilee in 2022.

Due to the current Covid restrictions over the last year the Civic Functions Fund has only had a small amount of money taken from it. Members were asked to consider transferring £5,000 from the fund to a new 'Jubilee 2022 Fund' so that the Council may be able to organise events in 2022. It is also suggested that a small working party be set up in the future to look at what events could be held. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that £5,000 is taken from the Civic Functions Fund and put into a new Jubilee Fund for 2022 and that a small working party of Cllrs S.Gibson, Mrs.S.Grove, M Parker, Miss.B.Salmon and Miss.K.Stephens be set up. It was suggested that other community groups could join the working party in the early stages of organisation.

117/20 Replacing Dragons Teeth on Champtoceaux and Liederbach Greens.

Three quotations were requested but only two were returned to supply and install dragon's teeth on both open spaces. The quotations are as follows:

New Forest Fencing & Gates Ltd

£5,458.99 + VAT

Prc Fencing (Dorset)

£3,091.74 This includes VAT

After discussion took place, it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the quotation of £3,091.74 from Prc Fencing (Dorset) is accepted.

118/20 Social Media Protocol and Press, Media & Social Media Policy.

A copy of the above had been resent and a copy with amendments by Councillor Jane Russell has also been sent to all Members. Discussion took place and it was agreed that the Social Media Protocol was not enforceable whereas the Code of Conduct with associated behavioural guidance is set in law. Therefore it was agreed that Councillors S.Gibson, M.Parker, Ms.J.Russell and Miss.K.Stephens meet virtually to change the documents to Guidance and this would be an agenda item at the March F & G P committee meeting.

119/20 Estimates for Expenditure for 2021/2022.

A schedule for the ensuing year, which had been copied to all members, had been submitted, the schedule was duly approved, and it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that a precept of £351,597 be levied in accordance with the requirements of the schedule, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

120/20 Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy Consultation.

The link to the above consultation has been copied to all Members. Full Town Council agreed that F & G P Committee could respond on behalf of the Town Council as the closing date is the day after January Full Council meeting. The Clerk would send the following response:

*The Town Council are very impressed with the document and agree with the targets. The only criticism is that the Town Council would want more ambitious targets with*

(38)

*closer deadlines. However, they understand why Dorset Council have chosen the targets they have, as these are much more likely to be met. Members of the Town Council were encouraged to respond independently as well as the official Town Council response supporting the document.*

121/20 Reports on Health & Safety aspects from the Amenities Committee members.

The inspection of the Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces and the Cemetery were taking place and any issues would be dealt with by the Town Clerk.

122/20 Other reports and items for future agendas.

a) An agenda item was requested to discuss further funding of the Verwood Community Support Group and that Councillor Mrs.S.Rose be invited to the next F & G P meeting in February to give an update on the group and financial requirements.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.46 p.m.

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Chairman