

**Minutes of the meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
held remotely on Monday 25th January 2021 at 7:00pm
using the online Zoom meeting platform.**

Cllrs present: Chairman Mrs N Shaw, E Gadsdon, R Gardner, T Manyika (from 7:05pm), S May, R Patient & Mrs M Weir.

18. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

No apologies were received; all Members were present.

19. Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Pecuniary Interest; or

c) Non-Pecuniary Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 25th January 2021:

No declarations were made.

20. Public Forum:

No members of the public were present.

21. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting were **approved** as a correct record and Members approved the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

22. Action Update List – December 2020:

22.1 The Clerk had followed up the grant request from Ashingdon Parish Council (APC) regarding the self-closing toilet doors at King George's playing field, but paperwork still had not been received. The invoice to APC from Rochford District Council (RDC) would be sent over once available and the Clerk would then ask Members to consider the grant request.

22.2 Members noted that additional cheque signatories would be Chair Mrs N Shaw and Cllr S May.

22.3 The trial of the S-Type Security Company commenced in early January following the decision to engage the company on a trial basis. Members noted several enquiries had been received from District Cllrs who had reported they had been contacted by a resident who had been asked to put their dog on a lead within the Nature Reserve at Magnolia. The resident had believed it was a District Council initiative. Members noted that an agenda item on the Security Company trial was on Full Council's next Full Council Meeting.

22.4 The Investment strategy for 2020-21 had been confirmed and the Clerk had updated Section 8 accordingly.

Members **accepted** the Action Update List and agreed to the removal of closed items.

23. Financial Report – December 2020:

The Clerk informed Members that expenditure at month nine was 58.4% against an expected figure of 75%. Cllr Mrs E Gadsdon asked if Council would meet, exceed, or

come under target and if any underspend was due to works not being completed. The Clerk informed Members that the current budget was underspent, but it was difficult to gauge how much was due to works not being completed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Clerk pointed out that Council was often underspent at this time of year, with further substantial costs due to be paid over the coming months.

Cllr T Manyika joined the meeting at 7:05pm.

There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

24. Consider Parks, General Purposes & Youth Budgets for 2021-22:

Members **agreed** the Parks Committee budget for 2021-22 of £54,675, which had been approved at the Parks Committee meeting on the 14th January 2021, for recommendation to Full Council.

Members **agreed** the General Purposes Committee budget for 2021-22 of £29,200, which had been approved at the General Purposes Committee meeting on the 26th November 2020, for recommendation to Full Council.

Cllr Mrs E Gadson asked if the youth budget had been discussed by the Youth Working Group. The Clerk reminded Cllr Mrs E Gadson that the Youth Group had been disbanded but that the General Purposes Committee set the Youth budget.

Members **agreed** the Youth budget for 2021-22 of £1,500 for recommendation to Full Council.

25. Consider Precept for 2021-22 for recommendation to Full Council:

Members noted the Clerk's report. The Clerk reported that the overall budget of £186,475 was reduced by £2,505 compared to 2020-21 which represented an overall decrease of 1%. It was noted that an increase could not be justified, and that most other Parish Councils were following suit with the level of precept demands.

Chairman Mrs N Shaw felt Council provided a good value for money.

Members unanimously **agreed** that the Finance Committee recommend to Full Council a Precept of £186,474.56 for 2021-22.

26. Subscription request: Essex Wildlife Trust (£40):

Members unanimously **approved** the Essex Wildlife annual subscription of £40.

27. Summary of Decisions:

- Parks Committee budget of £54,675 for 2021-22 approved for recommendation to Full Council.
- General Purposes Committee budget of £29,200 for 2021-22 approved for recommendation to Full Council.
- Youth budget of £1,500 for 2021-22 approved for recommendation to Full Council.
- Precept of £186,474.56 for 2021-22 approved for recommendation to Full Council.
- Essex Wildlife Trust annual subscription of £40 approved.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7:11pm.

Chairman