



## Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7:30pm

**PRESENT** Cllr. J Britt Chairman presiding.  
Cllrs. M Cockett, D Garland, M Lowe, N Osborne & A Ratcliffe  
L Westcott (Clerk)

### **Public Participation**

2 members of the public from the Downs Mail provided an outline of partnership options with LPC. A reporter from the Downs Mail would be sent to LPC meetings to understand main issues and write an article. This would be sent to the clerk and chair to review and then a final proof would be provided before printing. The Downs Mail have a following on Social Media and on their website as well as hard copy. Currently only one drop off point in Lenham at the Village stores, although following discussion it was agreed that this would be investigated further. The Downs Mail is published on the first and third Thursdays every month. Working closely with parish councils brings other news items to the forefront.

The chair opened the meeting at 8:10pm.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllrs. A Walmsley, K Hammond and S Heeley.  
Apologies also accepted from RFO James Bate.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA**

None declared.

#### **3. MINUTES FROM F&GP 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were agreed as being accurate.

**ACTION** – Cllr. A Ratcliffe to send J Bate receipt for Autocad.

#### **4. FINANCIAL REPORT (read by L Westcott)**

##### a. Financial information:

Expenditure this month - £18,432.91 (per payment run)

Income this month - £66 (Interment fees)

There's approximately £14,434 expenditure remaining in the budget for 21/22

##### b. VAT – J Bate is working through the information and hopes to have positive feedback at the LPC in February.

#### **5. Update on Section 106 & CIL monies due**

Cllr. D Garland reported that there was no change to last month - CIL money of £6851.94 is due to be paid in April 2022 for Baldock Barn. S106 money available to be claimed from MBC for the Paddocks (£9,187.32), Jones Homes (£68,199.30) and the Old Goods Yard (£127,592.38).

## 6. Potential Partnership with the Downs Mail

Cllr. J Britt reported that LPC currently provides an article to the Lenham Focus each month, this is important to continue. Discussions were held over the benefits of paying for half a page in the Downs Mail, this would be more current than the Focus, but it would only be beneficial if there were more pick up points in the village. Recommendation to full council for a one-year trial for half a page every other month for up to £1000, along with agreement for more pick up points in the village (such as parish office, community centre, Chequers, etc).

## 7. Review of Grant Application Form

Main discussion points:

- The information provided on the first page is quite long and may put small groups off applying,
- Groups latest accounts should only be requested if available,
- The new proposed questions are appropriate and in line with further information requested for recent applications.

**ACTION** All to provide comments to L Westcott by 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## 8. Updated List of Scheduled Works

L Westcott reported that we need to review grounds maintenance works required for the coming year, with a plan for the budget and works completed to be monitored more closely. A schedule of works will be requested from contractors. A plan for the churchyard needs to be agreed in advance.

**ACTION** Cllr. J Britt to contact church wardens to organise a meeting.

**ACTION** Cllr. A Ratcliffe to send L Westcott a baseline for grass management.

## 9. Projects update:

- a. Nursery – waiting for confirmation of meeting with Cllrs. A Ratcliffe and N Osborne. Ham Lane Allotment Association (HLAA) have requested a meeting.  
**ACTION** L Westcott to find out when the HLAA AGM is.
- b. QPJ – Plans progressing well with a lot of community interest.  
**ACTION** Cllr. J Britt to liaise with landowner regarding beacon.
- c. Pilgrims Way – Cllr. D Garland reported that he attended the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January and has provided a report.  
**ACTION** Cllr. D Garland to check how many incidents there were in previous six months.
- d. WPF strip of land – draft s106 has been seen, but a clean copy without amendments marked on it is required.
- e. WCs – Cllrs. D Garland and A Ratcliffe met with contractors to gain a quote for remodelling.

## 10. Correspondence received (for information only)

- a. KCC are clearing some ash trees along A20 West from Maidstone Road due to ash dieback.
- b. There is a consultation on Water resources plan for the South East.
- c. New Sports and Recreation Ground working group, next meeting is required at end of February,  
**ACTION** L Westcott to organise next meeting.
- d. A memorial bench is being proposed by the family of Jean Cockett - LPC will need to agree location.
- e. A Member of the public has asked if there are any restrictions on putting a fence up at the edge of their garden on the boundary with the public pavement. All agreed there are no restrictions to the proposal.

The meeting closed at 22:00