



Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7:30pm

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt Chairman presiding.
Cllrs. M Cockett, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe & A Walmsley
J Bate (RFO) part, L Westcott (clerk)

Public Participation:

1 member of the public present – the member of the public represents Lenham Market and was surprised LPC have been consulted on the street traders licence application. MBC are the only borough council that charges for a licence, the total cost paid will be £419 for the application and grant of licence.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. K Hammond.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

No declarations received.

3. MINUTES FROM F&GP 15th MARCH 2023

The minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 15th March 2023 were agreed as being accurate. Points to note:

- a. Registration with ICO has been completed.
- b. The Village spring clean was well attended despite the wet weather.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT (by RFO J Bate)

- a. Bank balance currently at **£345,031.20**
- b. The precept has been received in the bank account, plus £1748 for interments and allotments rent.
- c. J Bate asked is LPC should consider another bank account as insurance is only provided on the first £85K per banking group. Cllr. N Osborne pointed out that the accounts need to be set up to receive large sums of money.
ACTION J Bate and L Westcott to research other options for banks.
- d. J Bate reported that no comments have been received on the drafted Financial Regulations, these will put forward for adoption at the May Annual meeting of the Council.
- e. J Bate stated that some longstanding agreements/contracts require formalisation.
ACTION J Bate to review.

5. UPDATE ON SECTION 106 & CIL MONIES DUE / APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS MADE

L Westcott reported that CIL money is due for 23 High Street = £80.83

Cllr. J Britt reported that the strategic CIL applications to MBC for the WCs and Nursery was due for discussion at an MBC meeting that evening, but it did not get included on the agenda. There is no indication when a decision will be made.

Cllr. A Walmsley reported that when the correct quotes have been received for the footpath work a S106 application can be submitted to MBC.

J Bate left

6. TO CONSIDER GRANT APPLICATION FROM ST MARY’S CHURCH FOR £500 TOWARDS REFRESHMENTS FOR THE KING’S CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

All agreed to the approval of the grant application to the church from the events budget line. This will be paid via cheque to the organising group (not via the church accounts) ASAP as event is soon.

7. LENHAM MARKET – CONSULATION ON STREET TRADING LICENCE RENEWAL

All agreed to support licence application and to question why MBC charge for the application process when other councils appear to offer similar licences free of charge.

ACTION L Westcott to send response.

8. PROJECTS UPDATE

- a. WCs – Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that a decision is still awaited on the CIL bid to MBC.
- b. Picnic Site – Cllr. N Osborne reported that to maintain the chalk grassland, the site requires cutting in the autumn and the cut grass removed. All agreed.
- c. Church Hub – Cllr. N Osborne reported that he and Cllr. J Britt met with the fundraiser.
- d. WC in office – Cllr. J Britt suggested getting updated quotes and proceeding with the work as it is in budget.
- e. Footpath – Cllr. A Walmsley will chase quotes for required works.
- f. Churchyard – **ACTION** L Westcott to complete an application for cutting down leylandii trees.
- g. Sale of land at the WPF – Cllr. J Britt reported that the Conditional Sale agreement and s106 documents have both been signed and sent off. Land agent and KALC have provided advice on providing information requested about the contract that is commercially sensitive.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

- a. Annual Parish Meeting – L Westcott reported that the usual caterer is not available.
ACTION Cllr. A Ratcliffe will provide alternative quote from his contact.

10. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL

- a. Confirmation of £500 awarded to church coronation event organisers.

The meeting closed at 21:45

Signed as a true record on this day 10th May 2023.....

Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee