



## Finance and General Purposes Committee

Wednesday 17 February 2021

Public Participation: Members of the public reported on the situation at Pilgrim's Way. It was agreed that Cllrs Walmsley and Britt would have a discussion regarding the potential installation of mobile CCTV. ACTION Cllr Walmsley to arrange.

In attendance: Cllr J Britt (presiding Chair), Cllr A Walmsley, Cllr N Osborne, Cllr D Garland, Cllr K Hammond, Cllr M Ballard

Apologies: Mrs M McFarlane (Parish Clerk), Cllr M Cockett, Mr J Bate (RFO)

Declarations of interest on the agenda: there were none

RFO report: Cllr Britt read out the RFO report and this was subsequently circulated. The RFO reported that:

- There have been no significant or out of the ordinary income or expenditure items in the month but some test reports would be sent out in advance of the next meeting so people can see where we are financially.
- Initial contact with a potential new bank that seems to be cleaning the market up from a local government perspective has been made and a call to ask some questions has been requested. A proposal and figures supporting this proposal will come back to full council
- In relation to the recruitment process a two-hour conference call with a pension regulator for an update on the auto enrolment process. (This is a free update from my accounting body).

Update on recruitment for the Parish Clerk: Cllr Britt reported that twelve applications had been received in total, seven had been shortlisted and the interview team were ready for interviews from 22 February. A report to full council with a recommendation for noting would follow to 3 March Full Council.

Update on S106 / CIL: Cllr Garland reported that there were no specific changes to report.

Projects update:

- Toilets – it was agreed to use Thorneloe as the council's solicitor with MBC. There was a discussion relating to the possible funding from NALC and an agreement to include the redevelopment of the toilets along with the potential recreation ground and the nursery (as

long and medium term projects) Cllr Ratcliff circulated the NALC spread-sheet and will elaborate

- Maidstone Rd car park – The works are underway and it was agreed to remove the central light as during the works it was discovered that it was not safe. Removal of the light has created two additional parking spaces
- Nursery: - planning permission has been refused, a bat survey was required and cannot be completed until April (May?) and then resubmit ACTION Cllr Ratcliff to source the bat survey
- Purchase of 1A High St: - Cllr Britt updated on progress. The adjoining flat (over the florist) is being sold and the lease to that will be attached to the freehold of 1A High Street. A full report will be submitted to full council ACTION Cllr Britt

Landscape and village maintenance: Cllr Garland updated on the planter replacements and reported that the post supporting the Lenham village sign on the A20 / Faversham Road junction is rotten. ACTION Parish Clerk to gather costs.

CCTV: Cyber Eye has been contacted and replacement will be going ahead as previously discussed.

Correspondence:

- Cllr Osborne reported that he has been in touch with the village resident who had complained that the ice and snow hadn't been cleared from the footpath outside her house in the High Street. Cllr Osborne reminded everyone that such issues are dealt with by the Borough Council and KCC, not the Parish Council
- There was a discussion about parking at the Abbey site which has been brought to the Council's attention. Cllr Osborne agreed to liaise with the developer to understand when on-site parking for workers would be established
- Cllr Osborne reported that a meeting with the new owners of the former Wealden Homes site in Ham Lane had been set up for 10:30 March 2 2021, Cllrs Osborn and Ratcliff to attend along with Paul McCreery
- Nominations to outside agencies / groups – Cllr Osborne reported that nominees from the Council can be made to the Alms-houses and a Trustee for the Community Centre Management committee ACTION this will be referred to Full Council on 3 March for discussion and agreement

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:45