



Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Wednesday 20th October 2021 at 7:30pm

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from the RFO J Bate.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

No disclosures or confidential items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES FROM F&GP 15th SEPTEMBER 2021

The minutes of the F&GP meeting on 15th September 2021 were agreed as being accurate. The only outstanding action not included on the agenda is for Cllr. J Britt to contact Halletts regarding the lease for the WCs.

ACTION Cllr. J Britt to progress this.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT (Report by J Bate RFO read by L Westcott)

a. Expenditure in the Parish Accounts for the same period has been tabled and agreed at the meeting 6th October 2021.

b. RFO requires a new laptop, discussions were held on whether this should be a contribution to a new laptop or one bought specifically for RFO work.

ACTION L Westcott to get a quote for a new laptop and report to full council.

5. BUDGET – SETTING THE BUDGET FOR 2022/23

Draft proposed budget headings were provided by J Bate for discussion. Key points made were:

- a. Expenditure needs to be separated into revenue and capital income.
- b. Some items are repeated, e.g. litter picking and bin emptying
- c. Projects should be included on a separate sheet.
- d. Account codes/budget numbers should be generated.
- e. Can income from reclaimed VAT be included.

ACTION L Westcott to set up a working group meeting with J Bate and Cllrs. M Cockett and N Osborne to look at budget and report back to November's F&GP.

6. UPDATE ON SECTION 106 & CIL MONIES DUE

Cllr. D Garland reported that £2661.24 is due to be paid to LPC this week from applications 19/503595/FULL and 19/500248/FULL. S106 money from The Paddocks and Jones homes needs to be applied for.

ACTION L Westcott and Cllr. D Garland to apply to MBC for this money.

Cllr. D Garland, J Bate and L Westcott attended "Planning Obligations" Training today run by SLCC. Cllr. D Garland reported that CIL and S106 will eventually be replaced by a Single Infrastructure Levy (SIL).

ACTION L Westcott to find out if there will be any exemptions to SIL.

7. PREPARING FOR MBC LP REVIEW – PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY 16TH OCTOBER

- a. Paul McCreery, Cllr. J Britt & Cllr. S Heeley attended a meeting with Knight's solicitors to confirm the process for LPC's Reg 19 response. P McCreery will update the response to the Reg 18 consultation, this will be sent to Knight's for their views.
- b. Cllr. J Britt confirmed that quotes were received from Knight's to assist with the public enquiry and also from BPS to provide an assessment of viability.
- c. Cllr. K Hammond reported that four MBC councillors have left the Liberal Democrats, including the former leader. Clive English has taken on the leadership of the Lib Dem group.

8. LENHAM MEADOWS TRUST

Lenham Meadows Trust will provide a management plan at November's F&GP for land North of the cemetery.

9. GRANT APPLICATION FORM

L Westcott reported that a grant application form has been received from Lenham Wanderers Football Club. This is for £1000 to go towards training kit. Cllr. J Britt stated that grants usually make up 50% of the total cost of a project, question 9 was not completed in the application form, so further information is required.

ACTION L Westcott to request further information on the total cost of the project and if any other grants have been applied for from other sources.

10. PROJECTS UPDATE

- a. Nursery – Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that the new planning application has been validated by MBC. Cllr. A Walmsley reported that a meeting took place with an allotment holder to discuss some concerns. The chairman of the Ham Lane Allotment Association has also written to LPC.
ACTION Cllr. A Ratcliffe to respond to Allotment Association email.
- b. Planters – Cllr. D Garland has received a quote for winter plants for planters at £336.66 and a quote of £595 to refurbish the planter on Old Ashford Road. All agreed for this to be recommended to full council.
- c. Skate Ramp at the WPF – Cllr. M Lowe reported that graffiti had been sprayed on the skate ramp and emergency works were required to remove it and paint over it. All agreed for payment to be agreed at full council.
- d. Queens Platinum Jubilee Event – Cllr. M Lowe agreed to lead a working group to organise a celebration event. **ACTION** Cllr. M Lowe to put together celebration ideas and consult with other groups.
- e. The Cross – Concerns were raised about the quality of the new interpretation board for the Cross.
ACTION Cllr. A Walmsley to find out more about the construction.
- f. Alms Houses – LPC need to nominate a new trustee, a potential person has been put forward. All agreed to recommend them at full council.
- g. Brown Tourist Sign on A20 – Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that the dent could be pushed out of the sign, but it needs to be removed to do so and then replaced. Cllr. D Garland to contact KCC and ask if the posts could just be replaced.

11. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a. KALC AGM on 13th November – Cllr. J Britt stated that he will attend.
- b. A member of the public has requested copies of minutes from 2016, these will be sent by post.
- c. Remembrance Day – The wreath should have LPC logo on, Cllr. J Britt will place the wreath on 11th November and move it on 14th November, more details will be provided of timings.
- d. Following an enquiry about hedge cutting along the path from Old Ashford Road to Groom Way, a quote of £170 has been received to complete the work – this will be recommended to full council.
- e. Anti-social behaviour by customers of the Chinese has been reported on the High Street.
- f. Sports England have asked LPC to complete a survey for the WPF.
ACTION Cllrs. M Lowe and A Walmsley to provide L Westcott with the answers to respond.

The meeting closed at 22:20

Signed as a true record on this day 3rd November 2021
Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee