



Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 7:30pm

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

Public Participation:

No members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllrs. M Lowe and RFO J Bate.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

Cllrs. N Osborne and A Ratcliffe declared an interest in Lenham Nursery School.

No other interests declared.

3. MINUTES FROM F&GP 18th MAY 2022

The minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 18th May 2022 were agreed as being accurate.

Point to note:

- a. J Bate to finalise application for payment card.
- b. Cllr. J Britt wanted to thank Cllrs. M Lowe and Mic Lowe along with everyone else involved including the volunteers for the QPJ events that were enjoyed by many residents.

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

- a. The internal audit has been booked for 21st June.
- b. Bank balance at 14th June 2022 was £276,486,34.
- c. All expenses for the Queen's Jubilee Celebration will be totalled and reported on at the next F&GP so any expenses not in by the last working day of this month (June) will not be included.

ACTION All to submit any outstanding receipts/invoices for QPJ to J Bate.

5. UPDATE ON S106 AND CIL MONIES DUE

Cllr. D Garland reported that no CIL money is due at present. There is a pending amount of S106 monies of £204,979 available.

6. APPLICATION FOR MBC STRATEGIC FUNDING FOR RECONFIGURATION OF PUBLIC TOILETS

Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that he has completed the application form for the WCs and needed to clarify some points prior to circulation. Cllr. J Britt reported that the lease with MBC is ready to sign. There was a discussion regarding the price to charge users of the WCs. All agreed 50 pence seems reasonable and in line with similar facilities.

ACTION Cllr. A Ratcliffe to circulate draft application form for all to comment.

ACTION Cllr. A Ratcliffe to ask T&J Sams for letters of support.

7. PROJECTS UPDATE

- a. The Cross – Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that the working parties worked hard over the weekend weeding and edging the Cross and it now looks much improved. One more day will be required to spread the chalk and edge the downward slope. The small garden will be cleared and planted with wildflowers. A formal event will take place at 5:30pm on 6th September, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant has agreed to attend. The parish event will be on 10th September.

ACTION L Westcott to chase dates for installation of steps and gates.

Cllr. K Hammond arrived.

- b. Lenham Nursery School – Cllr. N Osborne reported that the CIL application form is virtually completed. The letters of support will be included as appendices. A meeting was held with allotment holders to listen to their concerns. A fundraising flier has been produced by the Nursery and all agreed for LPC logo to be used on it.
- c. Sale of strip of land at WPF – Cllr. J Britt reported that Countryside have reached an agreement with MBC regarding the S106.
- d. Cherry Downs Picnic Site – Cllr. N Osborne reported that there are numerous ash trees that require removal. He met with a tree surgeon that has quoted £5k for clearing the trees. If the trees are not cleared there is a H&S risk and the site should be closed. **All agreed to recommend this to full council for the work to be carried out.**
ACTION Cllr. N Osborne to liaise with Kent Loves for local people who could make use of the wood.
ACTION L Westcott to get a quote for a tree survey following on from the 2019 one.
- e. Lock Up – L Westcott reported on the poor state of the lock up and large amount of rubbish in there. Cllr. M Lowe received a quote for a skip for £300 and proposes that the lock up is cleared out. All agreed this work needs to be completed, but there is no urgency and it could wait until an alternative storage provision is available at the reconfigured WCs.
- f. Skate Ramp – Cllr. M Lowe provided 3 options for revamping the skate ramp at the WPF prior to the meeting. The various options were discussed but other required expenditure on play equipment is not known to be able to consider the best option. A schedule of proposed works and timescales are required for all play equipment. Cllr. D Garland proposed getting a quote for using GRP to line the ramp.
ACTION Cllr. D Garland to get a quote for using GRP on skate ramp.
ACTION Cllr. M Lowe to provide a schedule of works required for all play areas.
- g. Car Park extension -The trustees of RB Plant have agreed to meet with LPC to discuss the option of extending Maidstone Road car park. Cllr. N Osborne stated that even if the car park is extended there is still the issue of lack of enforcement of parking in the Square car park, MBC need to patrol more frequently. Cllr. M Cockett previous looked at options for ANPR.
ACTION Cllr. A Ratcliffe to request previous work on ANPR from Cllr. M Cockett.

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECIEVED

- a. L Westcott reported that the WI have requested to do yarn bombing around the Square in the lead up to Remembrance Day. All agreed there is no objections to this, but it is unlikely to be acceptable on the war memorials and the church should be consulted.

9. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a. To accept the quote of £5k to remove trees and make the picnic site safe.

The meeting closed at 21:50