



Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Finance Committee Held on Thursday 29th July 2021 at 3pm

Present:

Councillors:

Tim Horton (TH)
Ian Hill (IH)
Steve Bolingbroke (SB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

- 30/21 Apologies for absence
Roger Beattie, Matt Reid.
- 31/21 Approval of Minutes
Minute 23/21 -one change was agreed to remove the word 'be' before £5K and replace it with 'pay'.
Resolved: That the change agreed above the minutes from the Meeting on the 24th June 2021 which were received by Council on 13/7/2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 32/21 Matters Arising
There were none.
- 33/21 Declarations of Interest
TH stated that as he has been involved with the tenders et on the I-Play that he will not vote on this item.
- 34/21 Allotments Water Upgrade
It was noted that from Earmarked and fundraising that there is £1860 available for this scheme. KT has asked for a revised quotation from the preferred contractor after 3 quotes had previously been received. The final figures should be available for the September Full Council Meeting.
After discussion the following was agreed:
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: that Council pay for the difference between the money raised and the total cost of the upgrade up to £3K.
- 35/21 Consideration of purchasing an additional one or two SID's and Solar Panels.
It was agreed to defer this to the September Finance meeting.
- 36/21 Package offer from Playdale for replacement equipment and removal of Iplay and consideration of funding
The committee noted that as part of the package Playdale would remove the I-Play which would be a saving of £2K and that they had also given a discount of 1/3rd of the total equipment and a 10% discount on installation costs so we get a substantial saving.
After discussion the following was agreed:
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Full Council agree to the expenditure of up to £17K on new play equipment and installation in the recreation ground area. This money to be taken from the General Reserves. That this has a proviso that the final sum is not signed off until the other potential facilities in the recreation ground has been taken into account.

It was noted that the Operations Committee would consult on the two schemes sent through by Playdale.

- 37/21 **RECOMMENDATION THAT THE COMMITTEE GO INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IN ACCORDANCE TO THE STATEMENT BELOW TO DISCUSS THE NEXT TWO AGENDA ITEMS.**
As discussion is needed on the negotiations.
There was no discussion on further negotiations, so the meeting continued in public session.

- 38/21 Sports Field Rent Review.
Proposal: Professional Advice re Sports Field Negotiations

Background

WPC Finance Committee decided in June to enter into negotiations with Beechwood Estates regarding the rent review and other matters relating to the Sports Field. It was agreed at Full Council that Savills, our land agent, should attend the meetings and advise on legal / contractual issues. There is no specific budget for funding this work, though there is a general allocation of £4000 for legal and election fees in the 2021/2022 budget

Resolved:

1. That Finance Committee authorise a spend of £1500 (being 10 hours work at agreed rate of £150) to advise WPC in preparing for the meeting and attending the first meeting. To be funded from professional advice budget.
2. That Finance further authorise an additional £900 to be used for related fees with Savills at the discretion of Councillors involved in the negotiations should the above be insufficient. Councillors to provide an itemised breakdown of any spend over the £1500 in retrospect.

It was noted that Steve Bolingbroke and Andrew McAuley attend the meeting with the Clerk if possible, in attendance.

- 39/21 Watlington Club- Transfer of Lease – the information was attached to the agenda.
It was noted that we do not have a copy of the original 1920 document relating to the Watlington Club and it was agreed to try and get a copy of the original foundation letter and that we keep an eye on this issue. It was also noted that we should have been approached before the Orange Bakery and the Taj were offered a lease. After discussion it was:
Resolved: That the Watlington Parish Council do not wish to take on these leases.

- 41/21 Any Other Business
Earmarked Reserves – That TH and IH look into these and the possible reallocation of these.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3.55PM

Items for the Future Meetings

1. Preferred Contactors List
2. Tendering Process

Confidential Items EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: THAT under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items of business of the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.