

WADHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Resources Committee held remotely via Zoom on Thursday 7 May 2020 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Crawford, Cllr Gadd, Cllr C Moore, (Chair), Cllr P Moore, Cllr Morris, Cllr Murphy and Cllr Smith

Also present: Amanda Barlow (Clerk)

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Tincombe.
2. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members' register of interests.
Cllr Gadd declared an interest in Agenda Item 7.4 as she is a trustee of the Wadhurst Hall & Field Institute.
3. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.
None.
4. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960.
Members resolved unanimously to discuss Agenda Item 7.8 in confidence. Members resolved to discuss Agenda Item 7.9 and 7.10 in the majority with Cllr Morris voting against.
5. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and resources Committee on the 13 February 2020 as a true record.
Members resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting on 13 February 2020 as a true record.
6. To determine matters arising from previous minutes for updating and noting.
Cllr C Moore confirmed that all the items were discussed at Full Council
7. Items for decision and allocation of resources if necessary
 - 7.1 To discuss final budget for 2019-20
Members resolved to agree to recommend to the Full Council that the final budget of 2019-20 be adopted.
 - 7.2 To review budget for 2020-21
Members noted the new budget for 2020-21.
 - 7.3 To discuss funding for Neighbourhood Plan
Cllr C Moore confirmed that the hours are the best estimate from AIRS on how many hours it will take to complete the Neighbourhood Plan. Members agreed to propose to the Full Council the hours proposed. Cllr Morris abstained from voting.
 - 7.4 To discuss funding for playground at Wadhurst Hall & Field Institute field
Members agreed that if the Council is minded to support the project the Finance & Resources Committee recommend that funding should be from CiL money and Section 106 monies and any additional funding should come from reserves. Cllr Morris abstained from the vote.
 - 7.5 To discuss recruitment policy
Members noted that the Recruitment Policy was adopted by the Full Council in February 2020 and agreed to review the policy in six months.
 - 7.6 To discuss budget for employee cover
Members agreed to recommend to Full Council for employee cover so the WPC can carry out its duties.
 - 7.7 To discuss use of employee home addresses
Members agreed that employees should not use their home addresses.
 - 7.8 To discuss appointment of new Finance Officer
Members resolved to recommend to full Council a formal offer of employment be made to the candidate as proposed in the paper. Cllr Morris abstained from the vote.
 - 7.9 To discuss next steps with regard to abusive members of the public
Members resolved to recommend to full Council that a member of the public be barred from attending Council meetings, as proposed in the paper. Cllr Murphy abstained from the vote and Cllr Morris voted against the proposal.

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7.10 To discuss member/officer relations

Members resolved to recommend to full council the proposals to raise the issue with WDC and request changes to communication channels, as proposed in the paper. Cllr Murphy abstained from the vote and Cllr Morris voted against the proposal.

8. To review and discuss the internal audit report

Members noted the internal audit report.

9. Review of banking arrangements

Members noted that the Council will be using cheques until a new RFO is appointed.

10. To update and review CiL Payments and agree next actions to take.

*The previous RFO had written to WDC some time ago and Members asked the Clerk to write to WDC re Bellerby's College about any outstanding CiL monies. **Members agreed that the public should be asked for ideas for the Sparrow's Green recreation ground to spend the Water's Reach CiL monies which is to be spent on youth/adult equipment.***

11. Items for noting

None.

12. Urgent issues at the discretion of the chair for noting or inclusion on future agenda

None.

The meeting ended 20.30

DRAFT