

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY USING MICROSOFT TEAMS on 10th NOVEMBER 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Craig Ellis (Chair), Susan Durant, Mark Houlbrook, Janet Phillips, Amie Knott, David Knight, Ron Powell

Also present: Matthew Gleadell (Clerk). 3 members of the public. 1 member of the press.

3588. APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. Tony Brookes, Cllr. Joe Blackham and Cllr. Carol Blackham

RESOLVED to accept the apologies.

3589. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3590. MINUTES

RESOLVED to accept as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2020 save for indicating that Cllr. Ellis was in the Chair.

3591. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

There were no matters raised by the members of the public present.

3592. FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk made reference to the monthly balance sheet report and the monthly payment listing which had been shared with members prior to the meeting. Members raised a number of queries in relation to the payment listing and queried some of the items. The Clerk was unable to answer all questions but agreed to get back to the Councillors with the answers after consultation with his colleague.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the payment list for monthly payments to be made.

3593. CCLA PROPERTY FUND PRESENTATION AND INVESTMENT POLICY

Council reviewed the proposed Investment Policy prepared by the Clerk and received a presentation from Mark Davies of CCLA regarding their property fund investment options. It was noted that due to the size of the Councils reserves that it is required to consider its investment strategy and have appropriate policies in place. It was noted that the adopting the policy did not actually involve any investments at this time. Councillors felt that they needed further consideration opportunity, training and discussion and to carefully consider their options and where possible link investments to future development plans before making any actual investments.

RESOLVED to adopt the Investment policy with a view to future consideration of actual investment options and plans following training and consideration of future project plans and all relevant detail for specific investments.

3594. GDPR POLICY REVIEW

The Clerk outlined the nature and content of the GDPR policies which were noted by members. A Cllr queried if members need to be registered with the ICO personally as data controllers in their own right. The Clerk agreed to investigate this point and provide an answer to members at the next meeting. Other queries were raised in relation to the data map and periods of document retention.

RESOLVED to adopt the policy documents as drafted and to appoint the Clerk as the Data Protection Officer of the Council.

3595. BUDGET 2021/2022

Members noted the Clerks report and the difficulties he will be facing preparing the budget for the next financial due to the uncertainty created by Covid 19. The various areas of budget which face uncertainty were outlined.

Members expressed their wish to do all they can to avoid increases in Council Tax in the next financial year in an effort to help those that are struggling with reduced incomes due to Covid 19.

RESOLVED for the Clerk to seek to prepare budgets that hopefully allow for a zero increase in Council Tax and if at all possible even provide for a reduction.

3596. DIGITISATION OF CEMETERY RECORDS

The Clerk presented details of the different companies that had quoted and the respective merits of each company. The clerk detailed the presentations he had received from the companies and confirmed his recommendation.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be permitted to engage the services of his preferred cemetery software provider EDGE IT and use general reserves to meet the small shortfall between the budgeted amount and the quoted amount.

3597. DELVES FENCING AND BORE HOLE

Members considered correspondence from the angling club and the Clerks supporting report. A number of questions were raised in relation to the bore hole and a number of observations made regarding licences and legalities around such a bore hole. Members also sought options involving rain water harvesting and other green options. Members were not keen on fencing off the site and felt that financially the Council is not in the best position at present due to Covid 19 and would wish to see the club pursuing grant funding in the first instance.

RESOLVED as follows:

1. The club shall not be permitted to fence off the site and it should remain as a green open space.
2. Further details to be sought in relation to a bore hole including considering other forms of water harvesting and also details of the existing system and how and why it no longer works.
3. That no funding be provided at this time.

End of meeting.