



Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 7:30pm

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllrs. M Cockett, A Ratcliffe and K Hammond.
Apologies also accepted from RFO James Bate.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

None declared.

3. MINUTES FROM F&GP 19th JANUARY 2021

The minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 19th January 2021 were agreed as being accurate.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT (read by L Westcott)

- a. Financial information – the bank balance is currently £100,370.36, given the monthly expenses gives us a closing annual balance of approximately £80k or £62k after CIL/s106 is deducted. This is slightly lower than the anticipated amount, so we need to keep control of spending.
- b. Monthly reporting will be enhanced from April to add more information to each payment with quarterly budget update reports.
- c. VAT – It is taking a little longer for J Bate to go through the VAT claim as the process for parish councils had to use two reports merged together. The figure to reclaim is around £26k.

5. Update on Section 106 & CIL monies due

Cllr. D Garland reported that there was no change to last month - CIL money of £6851.94 is due to be paid in April 2022 for Baldock Barn. S106 money available to be claimed from MBC for the Paddocks (£9,187.32), Jones Homes (£68,199.30) and the Old Goods Yard (£127,592.38).

6. To consider quote from Paul Waring for grounds maintenance

L Westcott presented the quote for grounds maintenance from Paul Waring along side last years for comparison. The costs have gone up just under 5% apart from the cemetery which appears to have gone up a lot more.

ACTION L Westcott to ask Waring about the cemetery cost increase and also request a schedule of works.

ACTION L Westcott to request quotes from other companies.

7. To consider quote from Down to Earth for removal of ivy in cemetery at £600

L Westcott reported that Down to Earth have provided a quote to remove the large growth of ivy on trees on the Western boundary at the cemetery. All agreed that this must be done to protect the trees.

Recommendation to full council to approve to spend £600 on ivy removal.

8. To consider details for memorial bench at William Pitt Field

L Westcott circulated the proposed details for the memorial bench at the WPF. All agreed with the proposals providing:

- When the new sports and recreation site is open and the WPF is sold, the bench will have to be removed and a new location agreed.
- The family or football club are responsible for installation of the bench into a concrete base, the same as the other benches at the WPF.
- The family or football club are responsible for any maintenance required to the bench.
- If the bench falls into disrepair, it will have to be removed.
- The Policy for Memorial benches is followed.

ACTION L Westcott to respond to Lenham Wanderers FC.

9. Meeting with WKHA 21st February 2022 at 11:00

Cllr. J Britt reported that he is attending a meeting with WKHA regarding the draft s104 agreement that was received on 28th January 2022 for the Paddocks. Halletts have confirmed this is the first time they have seen the document and will review it for LPC. WKHA have already agreed to pay legal costs. Cllrs. N Osborne and A Walmsley will also attend the meeting.

10. Discussion about damaged “gateway” at Sandway

The gateway sign into Sandway has been damaged by a vehicle. Cllr. J Britt has reported this to the police and has a crime number. KCC will not fund a similar replacement, so LPC would need to do this.

ACTION J Britt to follow this up with the police.

ACTION L Westcott to contact insurance company to assess if costs could be reclaimed.

11. Projects update:

- a. Cross Centenary –There have been some offers of help to restore the Cross.
ACTION Cllr. M Lowe to contact REME to ask if they can help with turning the chalk over.
- b. QPJ – Cllr. M Lowe reported that some donations had been made by local businesses.
- c. Sports and Recreation Working Group Meeting – Thorneloe have quoted £250 to review leases for the WPF.
- d. WPF Sale of strip of land – Cllr. J Britt reported that Halletts are being chased by Countryside, but a clean copy of the draft s106 agreement has still not been provided.
- e. Pilgrims Way – Cllr. D Garland reported that in 2020 there were 37 reports and in 2019 there were 29 reports of anti-social behaviour. Report numbers have dropped over recent months.
- f. Roads names for Abbey Homes development – Cllr. N Osborne has liaised with Lenham Heritage and Lenham historians and the proposed names will be agreed at full council.
ACTION Cllr. N Osborne to write up proposed names and their meanings.
- g. Councillor digital storage – Cllr. Mic Lowe has reviewed different options for Cllrs. digital storage of files, this will be discussed at full council.
- h. Planters – Cllr. D Garland reported that one of the planters at the Ham Lane/High Street junction needs to be replaced, he has received a quote for £495. This could be covered by S106 money.

12. Correspondence received (for information only)

- a. A member of the public spoke to Cllr. D Garland about the lack of a footpath at the top end of Maidstone Road onto the A20. This will be included on the Highways Improvement Plan.
- b. Gleam – LPC to respond to consultation as an opportunity to try and end the use of green lanes by recreational motor vehicles.
- c. Boundary Commission ward boundary consultation – Cllr. J Britt has drafted a response for discussion at full council.
- d. L Westcott has been approached by CROP about the potential use of the top floor office at 1A. Cllrs. agreed there is not likely to be enough space and it is difficult to access. Toilets facilities would need upgrading and there could be issues over sensitive LPC information.
- e. A member of the public has reported a missing ridge tile on the Lock up. Cllr. N Osborne has contacted someone to get a quote to replace and review condition of the roof.
- f. Complaints have been received over the state of the Ham Lane footpath. The surface cannot be repaired until the trees on the neighbouring property are removed, but the overhanging branches can be cut back. **ACTION** L Westcott to get a quote for tree works.

- g. It has been reported that a streetlight in Platts Heath is covered by trees and permanently on, it is not known who is responsible for the trees.

ACTION Cllr. A Walmsley to contact a member of the public in Platts Heath for further information.

The meeting closed at 22:00

Signed as a true record on this day 2nd March 2022

Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee