



Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Monday 26th February 2024 7:30pm

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt Chairman presiding.
Cllrs. D Garland, D Turner, A Ratcliffe & A Walmsley
J Bate (RFO), L Westcott (clerk)

Public Participation:

No public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. N Osborne and K Hammond.

2. NOMINATIONS FOR SUBSTITUTIONS

There were none.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1990, S1, THE COUNCIL IS TO DETERMINE WHICH ITEMS, IF ANY, SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS EXCLUDED.

No items determined as confidential.

5. MINUTES FROM F&GP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2024

The minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 17th January 2024 were agreed as being accurate.

Points to follow up:

- a. L Westcott reported that the working group has not had an opportunity to meet to discuss the Part Time post yet, feedback will be provided at LPC.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT (by J Bate)

- a. Review payment list for February for recommendation to full council:

Name	Frequency	Description	Date	Amount
Down to Earth	Monthly	Pruning yew trees in cemetery	31/01/2024	80.00
Ted Learning Ltd	Annual	Emails provision for 12 months	14/02/2024	180.00
Paul Waring	Quarterly	Grounds maintenance	31/01/2024	2400.06
Printerland	Ad hoc	Printer cartridges for parish office printer	31/01/2024	267.48
EDF	Monthly	WCs Electricity	05/02/2024	7.61
Lenham Focus Magazine	Annual	Advert in local magazine	31/01/2024	228.80
Nathan Beale	Monthly	Waste management	31/01/2024	735.00
DWN Property Services	monthly	Handyman services	09/02/2024	429.35
Jeremy Ault	Annual	Lime tree pollarding	21/02/2024	760.00
Butler Driveways	One off	Footpath resurfacing (\$106 monies received)	21/02/2024	11350.00
Safeplay	Bi monthly	Play park inspections	16/02/2024	176.40
Invoices settled during month with prior authorisation, but not included in January payment list:				
Kings Chambers	One off	Meeting charge for Maidstone Local Plan legal advice	14/02/2024	3,000.00
Sibley Pares	One off	Payment as agreed for sale of strip of WPF.	31/01/2024	18,836.33
			TOTAL	£ 38,451.03

J Bate reported that the amount paid to Sibley Pares will be transferred from the savings account to the main bank account to ensure it comes from the funds received for the sale of the strip of the WPF.

L Westcott reported she was overpaid for December 2023 and January 2024 (the gross amount was paid instead of the net amount). L Westcott has repaid the total amount of overpayment (£1047.54) back to the LPC bank account on 21/02/2024. J Bate has made a file note.

- b. Update on bank signatories – J Bate reported that he is waiting for information on proof of address from Cllr. K Hammond, once this has been received, the process should be quick.

7. UPDATE ON SECTION 106 AND CIL MONIES DUE/ APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS MADE

L Westcott reported that the s106 funds for the footpath have been received from MBC. The precept for 24/25 should be received on 12th April.

8. TO CONSIDER WORKS REQUIRED AT PLAY PARKS

- a. Ham Lane – L Westcott reported that a recommendation was received from the latest play park inspection to replace the universal joint on the cantilever swing for £331.
All agreed to recommend this for approval at LPC.
- b. Surfacing options at Ham Lane and Cherry Close play parks – L Westcott reported that algae and moss have made the surfaces very slippery and it needs cleaning.
ACTION Cllr. A Ratcliffe to suggest a chemical to use.

9. A20 UPDATE

Cllr. J Britt reported on the meeting he attended with the MP, KCC and police. In reality there is no quick fix and KCC have agreed to review the whole A20. In the meantime they will repaint the lines, the police will carry out speed checks and LPC will cut back the trees.

10. PROJECTS UPDATE

- a. Litter Pick Cllr. D Turner has agreed a date of 6th April for the village spring clean.
ACTION L Westcott to update the posters.
- b. Cemetery topographic survey – **ACTION** L Westcott to follow up.
- c. REME Event – Cllr. A Ratcliffe asked everyone to consider who should be invited as VIPs and VVIPs. **ACTION** Cllr. J Britt to contact MP office and KCC Chair.
- d. Ham Lane/ Maidstone Road footpath – Cllr. A Walmsley reported that the next phase of works has been completed. It was agreed that a dog bin would be useful behind the pavilion and the liability of the ash tree stump needs reviewing again.
ACTION L Westcott to get a quote for dog waste bin.
ACTION L Westcott to revisit legal information provided by insurance company regarding the damage caused to the path by the ash tree on neighbouring land.
- e. LWFC meeting – Cllr. A Walmsley reported that a liaison meeting with Lenham Wanderers FC will take place on 5th March. This will provide an opportunity to discuss the Countryside/ Vistry program of works, maintenance costs and continued representation on the P&I committee. Cllr. J Britt said the car park plans are to be redrawn in line with Cllr. A Ratcliffe's comments.
- f. The Cross – Kent Downs team have contacted LPC to discuss if the Cross can become part of the UNESCO Global Geopark status for the Kent Downs National Landscape. It was agreed to hold a meeting on 13th March at 7:30pm on teams, all are welcome to attend.
- g. Planters – Cllr. D Garland reported that the planters by the lime trees in the Square keep getting damaged by vehicles, a trial will take place this year of removing the pots and planting directly in the ground.
- h. Maidstone Local Plan Review – Cllr. J Britt reported on the meeting held with a barrister and circulated copies of the meeting notes. This will be an item for discussion at LPC.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

None to report.

12. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL

- a. Authorisation of payments as detailed in item 6.
- b. Replace the universal joint on the cantilever swing at Ham Lane play park for £331.
- c. Review quote for dog waste bin.

The meeting closed at 21:10

Signed as a true record on this day 6th March 2024.....

Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee