



Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 7:30pm

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt Chairman presiding.
Cllrs. M Cockett, D Garland, M Lowe, N Osborne & A Walmsley
5 members of the public

Public Participation:

Lenham Nursery shared their business plan. There was a discussion about fundraising and support for raising the capital funds required. It was shared that the need to move from the current premises is around three / four years away.

The Chair thanked Lenham Nursery for the time they had invested in creating the business plan and for the contribution to the discussion. It was agreed that there would need to be further dialogue to establish how a working partnership might be established to raise the capital to take the build forward. LPC will discuss this issue in detail at a future meeting and liaise with Lenham Nursery.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr. K Hammond and A Ratcliffe (post meeting).
Apologies also accepted from L Westcott (clerk) and RFO James Bate.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Cockett declared an interest in item 7 on the agenda

3. MINUTES FROM F&GP 16th FEBRUARY 2021

The minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 16th February 2021 were agreed as being accurate.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT (Written report provided by J Bate to Cllrs.)

- a. Banking - The current Bank Balance is £98,376.35
- b. Audit - The guidance and timetable for this year's AGAR and Audit process hasn't been released by PKF Littlejohn as yet, but this will not stop us from making preparations for the Internal Audit and getting the figures finalised, balanced and finally Budget differences identified and discussed at an upcoming F&GP. This will form much of my reporting for the forthcoming weeks/months.
- c. VAT - VAT reporting has progressed to the stage where I was hoping to submit the final listing this week, however, some issues were uncovered and this will take a few days to rectify, this will not affect in the completion deadline. Making Tax Digital (MTD for VAT) will proceed as planned from the 01/04/2022 as mandated by HMRC.
- d. Other projects - Have been on hold until completion of the VAT project.

5. UPDATE ON SECTION 106 & CIL MONIES DUE

Cllr. D Garland reported that we are expecting a payment from Baldock Barn (CIL) of £6851.94 which will be paid in April 2022. There is a pending amount of \$106 monies from the Tanyard Farm North site (Abbey Homes) £168,000 – F&GP made a recommendation that this amount is set aside for costs relating to the creation of the new recreation / sports area at East Lenham.

6. RESPONSE TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Cllr. J Britt confirmed that a draft response had been circulated and since that time a response had been received from Lenham Heritage, this includes elements which LPC should include the response. The Boundary Commission (BC) had been contacted to confirm whether or not MBC had been granted an extension, the response suggested that the MBC submission can be uploaded after the full council meeting later in April **provided** that the content of the response is sent to BC in advance and that the response is simply ratified. Cllr. J Britt confirmed that the BC had also confirmed that LPC could load its response once confirmed by full council on 6 April (i.e. after the formal closing date). Cllr. J Britt also shared that he would be going to Harrietsham Parish Council on 30 March to encourage them to submit a similar response. It was agreed to offer a public zoom meeting about the BC to encourage local people to respond.

ACTION: Cllr. Britt to set up zoom meeting for 23rd March.

7. PROPOSED MEMORIAL BENCH

Cllr. M Cockett declared an interest.

The application was discussed and it was agreed that this would be recommended to full council for approval with the applicants advised to contact the suppliers direct (to avoid complications over payment). Cllr. M Cockett confirmed that he would be funding the base on which the bench would be placed.

8. PROJECTS

- a. Cross centenary – Cllr. M Lowe reported that there was a new commanding officer in charge of the REME and it was agreed to contact him to establish whether there might be an opportunity for the REME to help with the refurbishment of the Cross. It has been agreed that once the major work on the refurbishment has taken place a group of volunteers would be encouraged to keep up with low-level maintenance, as per suggestions from Cllr. A Ratcliffe.
- b. Queens Platinum Jubilee – Cllr. M Lowe reported that he had received an offer of a donation of a 4m x 3m mobile stage from Aliaxis. So far 320 people have booked for the Jubilee lunch. Cllr. N Osborne provide contact information to Cllr. M Lowe have the contact details for the Charing and Lenham Heath memorial hall to ask for chairs.
- c. WCs – Cllr. D Garland reported that an outline figure of £50,440 + VAT has been received for the reconfiguration of the public toilets, it was suggested that at least 20% was added as contingency to this figure. The quote will be sufficient to make an application to MBC for release of CIL funds. Two other quotes will be required before the contract can be agreed and let.
- d. Nursery - there was a discussion relating to how to move this forward. Advice will be sought to avoid any anti-competition challenges.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

The meeting closed at 22:00