



## Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7:30pm

**PRESENT** Cllr. J Britt Chairman presiding.  
Cllrs. M Cockett, D Garland, K Hammond, M Lowe, Mic Lowe, A Ratcliffe, N Osborne & A Walmsley.  
L Westcott (Clerk)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

Cllr. K Hammond has a dispensation agreed for item 4.

### 3. MINUTES FROM F&GP 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the F&GP meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were agreed as being accurate.

### 4. FINANCIAL REPORT (J Bate RFO)

- a. Expenditure in the Parish Accounts for the same period has been tabled and agreed at the full council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- b. Setting the budget for 2022/23 – the draft figures circulated prior to the meeting were discussed. The proposed budget includes the core finance costs with £11k allocated for legal fees. MBC will not want to see the breakdown. Cllr. Mike Lowe queried the amount allocated for grass cutting and maintenance, it was felt that a process to monitor the grass cutting is required and will be allocated to a Cllr. when roles and responsibilities are reviewed at the January council meeting.
- c. The proposed precept is £178,827, this will be an increase to the precept from £106.99 per band D household to £116.58 per band D household.  
Cllr. M Cockett proposed and Cllr. Mike Lowe seconded and it was **resolved** to recommend a precept of **£178,827** to full council.

### 5. Update on Section 106 & CIL monies due

Cllr. D Garland reported that 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). This needs to be applied for but could be held by MBC until the money is required for the new Sports and Recreation Ground.

### 6. To Consider Lenham Wanderers Grass Cutting Invoice

An invoice has been received from LWFC for the LPC contribution to grass cutting at the WPF. This has increased to £705.70 this year. An additional £120 has also been included on the invoice for strimming around the new benches and exercise equipment – this cost hadn't previously been agreed and questions were raised as to whether this should be paid by LPC.

**ACTION** L Westcott to contact LWFC to request invoices to see if VAT can be reclaimed, further discussion will be held at full council.

**7. To consider a subscription to AutoCAD at £360 per year.**

Cllr. A Ratcliffe explained the benefits of having access to AutoCAD to assist with planning for sites such as the Nursery and the new Sports and Recreation Ground.

Cllr. M Lowe proposed and Cllr. A Walmsley seconded and it was resolved to make a recommendation to full council to pay for the year's subscription.

**8. Tree/hedge works – to consider the following quotes from Down to Earth**

Down to Earth have provided two quotes in line with work completed last year:

- a. A20 hedge cutting at £450 – it was reported that this was likely to be required to ensure the sightline from Faversham Road onto the A20 is not blocked. Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that this probably requires doing every year to ensure safety.
- b. Pruning surrounding the Yew trees at the cemetery at £45.  
**ACTION** Cllr. A Ratcliffe will review what is required and feedback.

**9. Projects update:**

- a. Nursery – Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that the planning permission for the new nursery building has been granted. Cllr. J Britt reported that Lenham Nursery should be asked to provide a plan along with time frames to LPC, they can be invited to March 2022 F&GP. Cllr. N Osborne suggested it may be useful for him and Cllr. A Ratcliffe to discuss the plans with the Nursery prior to March 2022.  
**ACTION** L Westcott to write to Lenham Nursery.
- b. Queens Platinum Jubilee Events – Cllr. Mike Lowe reported that a letter will be sent to traders in January to try and raise funds along with an article in the Lenham Focus to make people aware of the plans.
- c. The Cross – New quote received for the gates for £2682 + VAT in line with what was previously agreed. Cllr. A Ratcliffe suggested a security shroud maybe worthwhile on the padlock.  
**ACTION** L Westcott to instruct S Waring to proceed with the order for the gates.
- d. Tree Planting – Cllr. M Ballard has received all the trees and he has made a list of all those available.
- e. Sale of Strip of land at WPF – Cllr. J Britt provided an update on the draft contract from the Solicitors.  
**ACTION** Cllr. J Britt to contact land agent for advice.
- f. WCs – Solicitors have sent contract to MBC for signing.

**10. Correspondence received (for information only)**

- a. Information Request regarding the loan LPC took out for the Community Centre. Cllr. N Osborne reported that this was paid off in 2015. It is not known if LPC have to provide information over 6 years old.  
**ACTION** L Westcott to contact KALC for advice.
- b. A request has been made by Saxon Warrior Pharmacy for help finding volunteers for COVID booster clinics being held in January for three days. Cllr. K Hammond reported that she had also received the request through the volunteers network.  
**ACTION** K Hammond to forward message to Cllr. J Britt.
- c. J Bate reported that he had received a phone call requesting that the electric meter at the allotments be changed. He advised this didn't need doing at this time as the building was planned to be demolished.

The meeting closed at 21:50