



Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Wednesday 21st April 2021

Meeting by Zoom at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. J Britt Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. M Ballard, D Garland, M Lowe, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe & A Walmsley.

J Bate (RFO) L Westcott (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. M Cockett and Cllr. K Hammond (post meeting)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

No disclosures or confidential items on the agenda.

3. RFO REPORT

a. Report by RFO (J Bate)

- i. Draw down for the loan of 1A High Street has been requested to cover the purchase value, LPC have funds available if there is a delay.
- ii. Bank funds currently stand at approximately £330k including the precept which is expected on the 9th April.
- iii. The sale of WPF is progressing and Section 106 monies of £20k are expected imminently.
- iv. Still working on setting up a Local Government Pension Scheme for L Westcott.
- v. Income from cemetery may be incomplete as there is no tracking of payments.
ACTION L Westcott to update rules and protocols for burials and how payments are tracked.
- vi. Unity bank account – this will be set up in two days time, we will need to notify MBC and other organisations when everything has transferred.

b. 1A High Street

Cllr. J Britt reported that the purchasers of the flat had signed paperwork and paid the deposit.

c. Sale of strip of land at William Pitt Field

Cllr. J Britt reported that we are waiting for notification for Thorneloe to sign the contract.

This will be signed by the chairman and clerk.

4. UPDATE ON SECTION 106 & CIL MONIES

- a. Section 106 money from the Paddocks is due, but it needs to be allocated to a project – this was agreed to go towards the Cross renovation and village signs.
- b. £12,681.73 of CIL money from Land west of the Old Goods Yard (19/505281/FULL) will be paid by 05/05/21.

5. PROJECTS UPDATE

- a. Section 104 at the Paddocks – conversations have been had with West Kent Housing and SWS regarding the sewer from the development that passes under LPC land, no one is taking ownership of it. Cllr. A Walmsley reported that a deed of Grant was agreed to allow construction of the sewer

on LPC land. Cllr. M Ballard reported that it is important that we absolve liability in case of any issues with the sewer at this point.

ACTION Cllr. J Britt to send deed of grant to Hallett and Co. and ask for advice on how to proceed.

b. The Cross

- i. **Interpretation Boards** – Two quotes for the boards were discussed and it was decided to proceed with Noticeboards online.

ACTION Cllr. A Walmsley to inform the Thornes of agreement to quote from Noticeboards Online.

ACTION Cllr. A Walmsley to send information on design of the boards to the Thornes

- ii. **Quote for Gates** – Two quotes for gates received from Steve Waring.

ACTION L Westcott to request a drawing of the proposed gates before decision is made.

- iii. **Security** – Cllr. J Britt reported that he has communicated with KCC and the PCSO regarding ideas for CCTV – real and dummy cameras. Cllr. M Michaelas has spoken to the owner of Wents Garage who use the Pilgrims Way legally for off road biking, he has expressed his concern over the illegal users.

ACTION Cllr. J Britt to invite Wents Garage owner to next LPC meeting.

ACTION Cllr. A Walmsley to contact the residents to gain their views on the use of CCTV.

c. Headcorn Road Play Area Maintenance Plan

Cllr. M Lowe reported that MHS Homes are keen for LPC to take over maintenance of the new play area. Cllr. M Lowe's proposed plan with associated costs was circulated prior to the meeting for discussion. All agreed for Cllr. M Lowe to begin negotiations with MHS Homes.

ACTION Cllr. M Lowe to send proposed plan to MHS Homes.

d. Village Signposts

Discussed earlier under section 4.

e. Quote from Chris Hill

A quote from Chris Hill has been received for a new bin in Maidstone Road car park and seeding on Groom Way. Quote of £100 for the bin and location agreed. No one was clear on where the proposed seeding was for.

ACTION L Westcott to instruct Chris Hill to install bin and discuss proposed seeding locations.

f. Proposed Memorial Bench at Cemetery

A request has been received from a local family for a bench at cemetery. General discussion regarding memorials made it clear that a policy is required. In this case the request was decided to not be permitted.

ACTION L Westcott to contact family to inform them of the decision.

ACTION Cllr. A Ratcliffe to produce paper on memorials at the cemetery.

g. Grant application for planter at social club

A Grant application has been received for contribution to a planter at the social club. Concerns were raised about location of planter on a dangerous bend and adjacent to an area used by smokers.

ACTION L Westcott to notify Social Club that LPC cannot support this request.

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i. An email has been received offering a grant towards a defibrillator. Proposed location is outside McColls in Honywood Road beneath the notice board.
- a. **ACTION** Cllr. A Walmsley to talk to owner of McColls.
- b. **ACTION** L Westcott to find out more information regarding the grant.
- ii. A complaint has been received about new signage on Scissors & Co Barbers. Cllr. J Britt has contacted the owners to inform them of the complaint and remind them of the conservation area rules.

The meeting closed at 21:58