



**Minutes of the Remote Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting
on Tuesday, 16th June 2020**

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. D Ledger

Councillors: K Beer, J Rowland, A Singh & D Haggerty

In attendance: Town Clerk

Others present: Cllr E Bowman

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. Russell

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Ledger and Rowland declared a personal interest as councillors with East Devon District Council (EDDC)

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on Monday 24 February 2020.
(moved Cllr Ledger; seconded Cllr Haggerty)

4. Public Question Time

No questions were asked by members of the public.

5. Payments, Receipts & Unpaid Invoices

Members received a report of payments, income and unpaid invoices as at 31 May 2020 and **RESOLVED** to:

- ratify the schedule of payments up to 31 May 2020 as already approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegations;
- noted the receipts up to 31 May 2020; and
- noted the outstanding unpaid invoices as at 31 May 2020
(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Singh)

6. Bank Reconciliation

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation to 31 May 2020
(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Beer)

7. Petty Cash Reconciliation

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the petty cash reconciliation to 31 May 2020
(moved Cllr Singh; seconded Cllr Haggerty)



8. Budget Review 2020/21

Members considered the Clerk's report and income and expenditure as at 31 May 2020.

Members considered the various proposals set out in the report and the Clerk raised the proposal by Cllr Hartnell, who could not be present, that the sum of £5,000-£10,000 be allocated in respect of the business grant scheme proposed at the Council meeting on 6 May with a draft policy being brought forward to the next Council meeting for consideration. Additionally, Cllr Hartnell asked the Committee to consider increasing the existing grants budget from £8,000 to £13,000.

Cllr Rowland raised the issue of EDDC's decision to remove the outside gym equipment from Seaford Gardens and expressed disappointment that the local ward members had not been consulted on this as it was a popular and well used town asset. He believed that when the equipment was installed it has cost about £16,000 and he asked the Committee to consider whether the Town Council might consider funding the replacement of the equipment, albeit the figure would now be higher than that, if arrangements could be made with EDDC to be responsible for the ongoing maintenance. Cllr Ledger suggested that perhaps CIL funding could be used towards the cost of a replacement.

Cllr Haggerty raised the question of the Town Guide and stated his view that little investment would be needed for 2021 as it was likely that, unfortunately, tourism would still be restricted due to the pandemic, and 2022 would be the big year for tourism

Furthermore, Members noted the issues raised surrounding the implementation of the of the existing planning consent for the first phased of the Seafront Enhancement Scheme. These issues included the legality of the tender process carried out, budget, lack of a contract for the works, obligations required by the s278 highways agreement and outstanding planning conditions that required discharging prior to commencement of the development. It was further noted that the Clerk and Cllrs. Beer and Rowland would be meeting with Carl Northcott the following day. In light of the various outstanding matters, Members agreed that the matter should be referred back to Council for further consideration at its next meeting.

Members **RESOLVED** to note the budget and agreed virements totally £17,500 from the following budget lines to be placed in a general contingency until a decision was made as to how the monies should most appropriately be reallocated:

- 4485 – Insurance - £1,000
- 4185 - Town Guide – £2,000
- 4275 – Marketing - £5,000
- 4912 - Cycle Fest - £7,500
- 4722 – VE Day - £2,000



SEATON TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Mayor Cllr Ken Beer

Town Clerk Julia Mutlow

Furthermore, Members **RESOLVED** to recommend to full Council that the decision to progress the Seafront Enhancement Scheme be reconsidered in light of the recently identified budgetary and other issues requiring resolution prior to commencement of the development.

(moved Cllr Beer; seconded Cllr Rowland)

Meeting closed at 6.38pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

19 July 2020

