

Finance and General Purposes Committee

21st October 2019 at 7.30pm

All Saints Room, Civic Hall, Didcot



Minutes

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a true and correct record by the next meeting of this Committee.

Present:

Councillor P Siggers (Vice Chairman)

Councillor A Sandiford

Councillor M Walsh

Councilor V Haval

Councillor M McNeill

Councillor A Thompson

Councillor E Hards (Subbing for Cllr John Moody)

Officer:

Mrs J Wheeler, Town Clerk

Mrs S Hickman, Finance Manager

Cllr Mocky Khan joined the meeting.

Cllr A Hudson joined the meeting.

Five members of the public.

The meeting started with a presentation from three IT companies:

* Triumph Technologies

* MFG

* Planet IT

Each company was given approx. twenty minutes to present on the options of replacing the server or using the IT in the cloud. Ten minutes were taken to ask questions of each company.

Public Participation

Whilst MFG were setting up their presentation, Cllr A Hudson addressed the meeting concerning agenda item 7 – the draft budget. He wanted to ensure that the project to replace the pavilion at Edmonds Park would have the finances the project needs to move forward.

Cllr A Thompson leaves the meeting.

73. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Chair, Cllr John Moody. Cllr E Hards was the substitute.

74. Declarations of interests

None.

75. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 23 September 2019

It was proposed by Councillor A Sandiford; seconded by Councillor M McNeill:

RESOLVED to agree the minutes held on 23rd September 2019 as a correct record.

76. Questions on the Minutes as to the progress of any item

There were no questions.

77. Consideration of a report from “The Grub Hub” project held in the summer

The Committee had AGREED to pay a contribution of £2000 towards the project in the summer. The organisers were asked to bring some more information back to the Committee as this was a new initiative. The report was now asking for a final sum of £2,230. There was a concern that the report did not make it clear where the money was going and there was a concern that some of the money was going towards salaries which Council Policy does not currently allow.

It was proposed by Councillor P Siggers; seconded by Councillor M McNeill:

RESOLVED to keep the grant to £2000 as previously agreed and not to increase this sum.

78. Financial statements and budgets as at 30th September 2019

The Committee agreed to defer the statements to the meeting in November – they had only received the papers that day.

79.i To receive comments on the first draft budget 2020 – 2021

The Town Clerk commented that more detail will be carried on each cost centre before the next meeting. The Chair went through the budget pages. It was noted that:

1764 – Civic Hall grant is currently at nil because the Town Council cannot give a grant to itself.

1272 – Speed Surveys – the Committee favoured an increase to this cost centre budget.

3188 – Grant Aid Fund – the Committee favoured an increase from the suggested £40,000.

79. ii. To vire two cost centres 32525 and 32524 – it was AGREED to remove the suggested sum of £750,000 as this gives a false impression of the

figures. It was also noted that the new Pavilion building is likely to cost between 1 million to one and a half million.

80. To consider the presentations and quotes for the replacement of the server or putting all the files and email the cloud

The Chair asked several questions regarding the procurement process and how the companies were selected. The Councillors felt that they could not make a decision that evening. The request was for a more detailed – like-for-like quotation so that the Councillors can compare the costs. The Town Clerk was asked to implement a back-up solution in case the server does crash before the Committee has made a decision. The item would be deferred to the next meeting of the Finance Committee to allow the Town Clerk time to get a comparable break down of the quotes. The Councillors wanted to understand the different costs between using a hybrid server or putting everything in the cloud.

It was proposed by Councillor P Siggers; seconded by Councillor E Hards to suspend Standing Orders to allow a lady in the audience to speak on the £750,000 that was considered to be in the budget for the new pavilion in Edmonds Park.

81. To consider an up-date from Steve Parkinson regarding the VAT issues with the Civic Hall

The Town Clerk stated that there was no up-date for this meeting but she was expecting to hear from him shortly.

82. To consider the request from the Planning Committee for up to £750 to fund more speed surveys

It was AGREED to make this money available for the Planning Committee for speed surveys.

83. To approve a locum Town Clerk for the Council meeting of 4th November 2019.

The Town Clerk would be on annual leave for the next Full Council meeting. It was AGREED to accept the offer of a locum Town Clerk – who would cover the meeting. It was AGREED to cover his petrol costs and any other reasonable expenses – along the lines of the costs quoted from the SLCC Consultancy.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed _____ Chairman Date _____