



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 10TH DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.00PM.

Membership: G. Bonner, J. Ling (Committee Chairman), Mrs S. Coote, Mrs P. Furness (Deputy Committee Chairman), G. Waite (Town Mayor), S. Basra & S. Bowman (Deputy Town Mayor)

Present: G. Bonner, G. Waite, J. Ling, Mrs P. Furness & S. Bowman

Officer in attendance: J. Jones (Town Clerk) & A. Georgiou (Admin Officer).

Also present: 1 member of the public

180. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES

Apologies from Councillors Mrs S. Coote and S. Basra.

181. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NOTICE OF ANY DISPENSATIONS GRANTED.

None

182. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (INFORMATION ONLY).

The Chairman reported that there has been an upturn in COVID cases in Buntingford. For this reason Councillors, Marshalls and volunteers are to meet on Saturday morning to raise awareness in the town. The Clerk reported that Councillor Jones will brief everyone at 10am at The Manor House and there will be leaflets to distribute.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for the festive refreshments he had distributed prior to the meeting.

183. TO RECEIVE AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2020.

Following a proposal, second and unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes are a true record, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

184. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

The Chairman stated that there are ongoing discussions from the Phoenix perspective. The Clerk reported that the 20's Plenty initiative is being discussed at Cabinet.

It was noted that the by-pass has been litter picked but there is still litter on the A10 south of Buntingford.

185. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PHOENIX PROJECT GROUP.

The Chairman reported that there has not been a meeting of the PPG in recent months, the situation will be re-looked at in January.

186. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE MANOR HOUSE INCLUDING A REPORT FROM THE MANOR HOUSE SECURITY WORKING PARTY,

The Chairman stated that Councillor Wallace is leading on this but he is not a member of the Resources Committee, the Chairman asked Councillor Waite to report. Councillor Waite reported that Councillor Wallace is putting together a report. Most of the items suggested by the group have been identified by the tenants. A quote for additional CCTV cameras for the rear of the building has been received and there is a meeting arranged with an electrician to quote for infra-red detector floodlights for the rear of the building and also a floodlight at the front of the building, a socket for the Christmas lights will be installed at the same time.

- 187. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE.**
The Clerk reported that the centre is currently closed due to restrictions. The situation will be reviewed in January.
Discussion moved on to the COVID vaccination programme and disappointment was expressed that currently, vaccinations are being carried out at the Ware Drill Hall. It was suggested that the community bus is used to transport people to Ware for their vaccination and the Clerk was asked to mention this to the Chairman of the BCAT Trustees. It was questioned how the bus availability could be communicated to residents.
Councillors asked who made the decision that people of Buntingford have to go to Ware for their vaccinations and it was suggested that the MP is contacted regarding this.
- 188. TO CONSIDER ANY GRANT REQUESTS RECEIVED**
No grant requests received.
- 189. CONSIDERATION OF THE 2021/2022 BUDGET.**
The Clerk explained that the Tax Base figure is now available at £3136.50. This creates a surplus £11,000 to be allocated and still retain the Band D figure unchanged.
The Amenities Committee are currently undertaking a tender process for all of the town's maintenance and it is unclear what the tender figures will be. For this reason, it may be prudent to allocate the £11,000 as a contingency to offset against any additional costs. Should this not be required the surplus funds can be allocated to other budget headings with no change to the budget or precept.
A query was raised regarding the amount budgeted for dog bags, it was noted that the Council supplies free dog bags to encourage people to pick up after their dogs, this is one of the few things the Council can do to try and control the situation.
It was noted that the mortgage on the Manor House will be paid off in August, freeing an additional £9,000 per annum. It was agreed to discuss in February the cessation of the mortgage payments on the Manor House.
- 190. PLASTIC FREE BUNTINGFORD**
The Chairman reported that there has not been a recent meeting of the group. When the meetings resume it may be that we need to broaden our horizons and look at all major problem from an environmental perspective.
- 191. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION**
The Chairman reported that there have been no recent meetings.
- 192. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY.**
Councillor Bonner reported that the only outstanding issue is the legacy from Mrs Eunice Woods. Initial contact has been made with the schools but understandably, they are busy with the pandemic.
- 193. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**
The member of the public asked if donation boxes could be put by the dog bag dispensers, the Chairman responded that this should be discussed.
The member of the public asked if Plastic Free Buntingford could become involved in litter picking. The Chairman responded that there is a litter picking initiative led by the District Councillor, litter is a problem but largely, just visually, whereas plastic is a global threat.
In response to a question, the member of the public stated that he had received responses from four young people interested in a Youth Council. He was asked to supply the details to the Clerk.

It was noted that Youth Council meetings could be held remotely.

The Chairman asked Members to join him after the meeting in remote seasonal refreshments

Meeting closed at 8.11pm

Next meeting: Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom