



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30PM.

Membership: Councillors J. Ling (Committee Chairman), Mrs P. Furness (Deputy Mayor), S. Bowman, D. Wallace (Town Mayor), Mrs S. Coote, G. Bonner & Mrs J. Danagher.

Present: Councillors G. Bonner, Mrs J. Danagher, S. Bowman, D. Wallace, J. Ling, Mrs S. Coote & Mrs P. Furness.

Officer in attendance: Jill Jones - Town Clerk

Also present: Cllr G. Waite.

178. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

No apologies.

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

Councillor G. Bonner - Item 9 Grants (Buntingford Town FC).

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

The Chairman apologised for not being able to be present to chair all of the previous Resources Committee meetings in the year due to personal circumstances. He expects to be regularly present in future.

181. TO RECEIVE AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14TH JULY 2022.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

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

182. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS INCLUDING DISCUSSION ON DELAYED WORKS TO NEALE DRIVE/ERMINE STREET.

The Chairman stated that he understood that Redrow are due to report early in the new year.

There is currently a consultation on an experimental weight restriction Traffic Regulation Order for the A507 through Cottered.

It was agreed that the Committee supported the proposal, but it would be preferable if the restriction applied to the whole of the A507 from Baldock to Buntingford.

There were reservations regarding enforcement of the proposed restriction and the 'except for access' phrase was considered misleading.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council responds indicating its support for the experimental weight restrictions on the Cottered section of the A507 but noting that it would be preferable for the restriction to apply to the A507 from Baldock to Buntingford. The 'except for access' can be misleading and concerns regarding enforcement.

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

The Chairman stated that following discussion with the Mayor, Councillor Wallace, it had been agreed that October would be a good time to re-look at the project. However, the Chairman suggested that he and the Mayor, together, look more deeply at the situation bearing in mind that events have pushed things back and HCC are proposing a Phase II of the ATF works which will involve an assessment of the High Street. A meeting will then be needed to determine where the group sits and its remit.

184. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE MANOR HOUSE.

The Chairman reported that the Clerk has just started seeking quotes for the refurbishment of the kitchen. This will probably take some months. Councillor Mrs Furness reminded the Clerk that the carpet in the Council Chamber needs shampooing.

185. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE.

The Chairman reported that a new ABC Committee has been established and Councillors Waite and Mrs Danagher are the Council representatives on the Committee.

Councillor Mrs Danagher reported that the Committee met last week and have formed a list of things to do.

Councillor Waite reported that there is a wish list which has not yet been costed, the group will be looking for grants. The building has been registered with Solar Together, it has been established that 45 panels would fit on the roof but only 25 are allowed. Quotes are being sought for fire exit doors. The Manager has agreed to become the DPS for the building. Councillor Wallace reported that there was a licence issue, management by Committee was considered but this would constitute a major variation but the conditions of this were significant. To replace the DPS is a minor amendment. Jackie Allam will take her personal licence and then she can become the DPS. In response to a question, Councillor Waite stated that he would chase up contractors for quotes for replacement stairs at the back of the building.

186. TO CONSIDER ANY GRANT REQUESTS RECEIVED.

It was reported that Buntingford Town Football Club has applied for grant funding towards the firework event which will cost in the region of £5,400 this year. It was agreed that the Council would fund £3,500 but with a caveat that it needs to be looked at before funding for next year is considered, possibly early in the new year.

Following a proposal, second and a vote of 6 in favour and 1 abstention (GB) it was

RECOMMENDED

That this Council grant £3,500 to Buntingford Town Football Club towards the firework event to be funded from New Homes Bonus.

187. TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LIAISON GROUP.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That from 1/4/2023 the following pay rates will apply.

Gardener SCP20

Admin Assistant SCP 17

Clerk SCP 49

Community Centre Manager and Litter Picker 3% increase

2 x cleaners £11.00 per hour.

188. INITIAL CONSIDATION OF 2023/2024 BUDGET

The Clerk explained that the tax base figure will not be available until mid December, the budget will then be amended to reflect the figure. If there is a surplus then it will possibly be put into the tree budget, as there is significant tree work to be undertaken.

It was noted that the budget takes into account increased energy costs.

To be looked at again in November.

189. AGREEMENT TO AMEND FINANCIAL REGULATION 10.1 B2 as per Internal Audit report.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the words "Similar notice shall be given in addition to all firms included in the appropriate standing approved list of contractors maintained by the District Council, or if no

such list is maintained then in such newspaper circulation in the district as the Council shall direct" be removed from Financial Regulations 10.1.b2.

190. TO CONSIDER AN UPGRADE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S WEB SITE.

It was reported that 2commune, the hosts of the Town Council web site, are offering an upgrade to the current web site at a cost of £750. It was noted that the Council web site is looking dated.

However, the examples given were now more up to date.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the Town Council approves a web site upgrade at a cost of £750.

191. S106 OUTDOOR SPORTS - REPORT

Councillor Wallace reported that despite Councillor Jones' optimism, no decision has been received for the proposed pump track. The application for funding to the equipment at Hare Street Road Playing Field has been submitted, it's hoped that the work will start on the 7th November but there are access issues and a meeting is planned with the contractor to discuss this. Once a decision is received regarding the pump track, the group will re-engage with the contractor. Other things will be looked at once the decision is received.

192. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION.

The Chairman stated that he had been the Town Council representative on the Twinning Association for many years but had now stepped down. A new representative needs to be found. The Clerk was asked to email Councillors asking if anyone was interested in being the Council representative on the Twinning Association.

193. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY.

Councillor Bonner reported that there was little to report. Sadly one of the Charity's tenants had passed away three weeks ago, the property has now been re-let,

Councillor Wallace stated that if the Council intended to hold an event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, plans need to start now. He will raise this at council at the end of the month.

Meeting closed at 20.20

Next meeting: Thursday 10th November 2022 at 7.30pm at The Manor House.