

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
held on Monday 17 February 2020 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Bowden, Cllr Corlett-Shaw, Cllr Irven, Cllr Murphy (Chair) Cllr Westcott and Cllr Whetlor

It was noted that the Clerk was absent from the meeting due to a family bereavement and Cllr Whetlor would take the minutes.

20/65C To receive Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, section 85 (1): Cllr Murphy proposed that ***'the apologies given by Cllr de Renzy-Martin are accepted'***. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried

20/66C To receive Declarations of Interest:

Name	Minute No:	Description of Interest	Personal / Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllrs Murphy and Irven	20/67C (i)	Directors of WCCT	Personal & Prejudicial	Councillors withdrew from the meeting and did not participate in the discussion and voting

20/67C Presentation for a Financial Grant:

(i) Watchet Coastal Communities Team

At this point having declared a Personal & Prejudicial interest in this item, Cllrs Irven and Murphy withdrew from the meeting at 6.32pm

As the Chair of the Committee had withdrawn from the meeting, Cllr Whetlor presided over the meeting for this item only.

Cllr Westcott proposed that ***' a financial grant of £1,000 is awarded to WCCT to enable extra pages to be added to the 'Watchet Connects' newsletter, this is a very informative leaflet and the organisers and volunteers should be commended for their efforts in delivering the newsletter to every household in Watchet on a quarterly basis'***. Seconded by Cllr Corlett-Shaw. Carried.

It was noted that the grant would be allocated from the 20/21 grants budget available from April 2020.

Cllrs Irven and Murphy returned to the meeting at 6.35pm and Cllr Murphy resumed chairing the meeting.

20/68C Application for a financial donation:

(i) West Somerset Brass – the application for a donation was considered by members. After a brief discussion, Cllr Irven proposed that ***'a donation of £100 is awarded'***. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

(ii) Watchet Twinning – before considering the grant application, reference was made to the resolution passed in April 2019, together with the agreement that they would not have to make another financial presentation ***'The Twinning Society should be contacted and asked to resubmit the application at a later date demonstrating what the grant will be spent on with documented evidence attached to the application and this will be considered by the Committee. The Committee commends the principle of the Twinning Society, but it would be remiss of the Council when accountable for tax payer's money to award a grant without more specific information on what the grant will be used for'***

It was agreed that the resubmitted application complied with the above and after a brief discussion Cllr Irven proposed that ***'a financial grant of £500 is awarded towards the cost of supporting the Exchange Visit to Watchet of the St Renin Twinning Group to celebrate 40 years of its existence'***. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried with 5 votes for and 1 abstention.

The grant would be allocated from the 20/21 grants budget available from April 2020.

20/69C Financial Matters:

- (i) **Once per quarter, the Chair of the Committee shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations for all accounts produced by the RFO, the contents to be noted by this Committee, as per regulation 2.2 – Noted**
- (ii) **All payments above £500.00 and below £5000.00 are itemised and reported to this Committee, as per regulation 4.1 - Noted and signed off by the Chair of the Committee (attached).**
- (iii) **All payments issued for payment outside of Full Council Meetings, shall be reported to this Committee, as per regulation 6.6 - Noted and signed off by the Chair of the Committee (attached).**

20/62C Exclusion of Press and Public

“That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw” (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Cllr Murphy proposed that ***‘in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted that Standing Order 1c is invoked and the public are instructed to withdraw from the meeting’***. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried

See Excluded Notes **20/31EX**

20/71C Cemetery:

- (i) Breach of Cemetery Policy with regard to a headstone placement and added inscription – this matter is now resolved following an apology from the stonemason and an amendment to the Councils Cemetery Policy document to ensure that there is not a re-occurrence.
- (ii) Misuse of Cemetery car park for business promotion – it was agreed to monitor the use of the car park regularly and removal notices placed on unauthorised vehicles, and if trading is suspected then this is reported to Somerset West & Taunton Council.

20/72C Request for a ‘work experience’ placement for a student in the Council Office- It was agreed to support a work placement of a year 10 student from Kingsmead School week commencing 13 July 2020, Monday to Friday Office opening times.

Cllr Murphy proposed that ***‘the public are re-admitted to the meeting’***. Seconded by acclaim. Carried.

20/73C Matters for the next meeting:

- (i) Liaise with the Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.51pm

Signed: 

Dated: 