

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
held on Monday 18 October 2021 at 6.30pm

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

In attendance: Sarah Reed, Town Clerk,

21/145C To receive Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, section 85 (1): Cllr Murphy proposed that *'the apologies given by Cllrs Campbell and Westcott are accepted'*. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

21/146C To receive Declarations of Interest: None at this point

21/147C Presentation for a Financial Grant:

- (i) Watchet Live CIC, Carnival Parade- relevant paperwork including accounts were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Bob Hornby informed members that due to COVID 19 there had not been a carnival parade or fete in 2020 and the accounts reflected the 2019 event. He continued that a small loss had been made as assets such as flags and flagpoles had been purchased. The plan for the event in 2021 is the parade to start at midday on the Saturday with entertainment and lots of children's activities and the fete will be held on the Sunday. As the pub floats and large lorry floats have been lost, they have been canvassing businesses to get involved to make their premises a float to contribute to the carnival atmosphere and encourage their customers to dress in fancy dress. There then followed a question-and-answer session.

The presentation was concluded with a grant request of £3,000

Cllr Murphy thanked Bob Hornby for his presentation and informed him that in accordance with the Councils financial policy for awarding grants, a decision would be made by the Committee at the next meeting.

Bob Hornby left the meeting at 6.44pm

21/148C 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, the last quarterly figures were given to the Chair for verification.**
- (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**
- (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**
- (iv) **Successful funding bids- to devise a policy for awarding grants to community groups referred from Full Council at the meeting held on 11 October 2021. After a brief discussion, Cllr Murphy proposed that *'the application form and policy are approved as presented and it is advertised that the Council has secured funding to assist community groups to re-open after COVID and they are invited to apply. Applications need to be submitted by the end of November, with a view to the Committee making a decision in the December meeting'*. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.**

21/149C 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 21/44EX

21/150C Staffing Issues:

- (i) To approve a pay award to the Clerical Officer for obtaining training qualifications ILCA and CiLCA – circulated to members via **Appendix 1** prior to the meeting.

Members agreed to award the pay increase and commended the Clerical Officer for her hard work in completing the courses successfully.

Cllr Murphy proposed the '**re-admittance of the public**'. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

21/151C Matters for the next meeting:

- (i) Liaise with the Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.13pm

Signed:


Dated:
8/11/21