

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
held on Monday 11 April 2022 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Bowden, Cllr Irven, Cllr Murphy (Chair) and Cllr Westcott

In attendance: Sarah Reed, Town Clerk

22/184C To receive Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972, section 85 (1): Cllr Murphy proposed that the '*apologies from Cllrs Campbell, Corlett-Shaw and Whetlor are approved*'. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

22/150C To receive Declarations of Interest:

Name	Minute No:	Description of Interest	Personal / Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllr Irven	22/186C	Chair of Watchet Summertime	Personal & Prejudicial	Councillor withdrew from the meeting and did not participate in the discussion and voting
Cllr Bowden	22/188C (iii)	Recipient of a gift from the Council due to serving the community for 32 years and not seeking re-election	Personal	Councillor remained in the meeting and participated in the discussion and voting

22/186C Presentation for a Financial Grant:

(i) Watchet Summertime – *paperwork circulated prior to the meeting*

Having declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in this item, Cllr Irven withdrew from the meeting at 6.31pm.

John Fielding gave a background on the organisation and how a weeklong summer family event has been hosted mainly based on the Esplanade since 2010. The 2020 event was cancelled due to COVID and the 2021 event was ran at a reduced level. The 2022 event will run from 14 -20 August 2022 at full capacity, and will culminate a firework display and music show as the finale of the event on the Saturday evening. The grant request is for £500 for the following:

1. New re-usable banners - £150. The current banners are 10 years old; they will not be dispensed with but will be repaired and repurposed for signage.
2. The candle float event will no longer run and will be replaced by a 'Night of Light' which the Committee see as more ecologically friendly. This will involve illuminating the marina area in partnership with the Watchet Marina, local businesses, Watchet Boat Owners Association, and yachts visiting from the Bristol Channel Yacht Club Regatta. This will involve LED battery powered string lights to be purchased at a cost of £350.

John Fielding was thanked by the Chair for his presentation and informed that in line with the Councils financial policy, a decision will be made at the next meeting.

John Fielding left the meeting at 6.43pm.

Cllr Irven returned to the meeting at 6.44pm.

22/187C Financial Application for a Grant from the COVID Reserve:

- (i) Watchet Twinning – **decision required** – *paperwork circulated prior to the meeting*- a brief discussion ensued whereby members agreed that by assisting the group in celebrating the 40th Anniversary by hosting visitors from St Renan was a good use of the COVID Reserve. Cllr Irven proposed that a '**grant of £200 is awarded**'. Seconded by Cllr Murphy. Carried with 3 votes for and 1 abstention.

22/188C 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**
- (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**

22/189C Matters for the next meeting:

- (i) Liaise with the Clerk

Meeting closed at 6.52pm

Signed: 

Dated: 

