



Notes from an informal meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee held on 8 February 2022 via Zoom at 7.00pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors K Critchley (Chairman), D Budd (Vice Chairman), M Cotton, Z Gover, K Green, V Green, M Russell, C Turner

Officers present: K Noble, Deputy Town Clerk

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor R Schofield.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interests raised.

3. Public participation time

There were no members of the public present.

4. Payment of outstanding creditors

A query was raised that the water charges for the Quay toilets were still significantly higher than the charges for Howards Lane toilets. The Deputy Clerk agreed to follow this up.

Details of the payment to SLCC were requested, which Councillor Budd, as Chair of the Personnel Committee, answered.

A query regarding the grant amount to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal was raised and Members thought it had been agreed to donate £150. The Deputy Clerk would clarify this by email.

The payment list in the sum of £34,857.47 (£2,786.07 BACS and £32,071.40 Direct Debits) was approved.

5. Budget Comparison Report

The budget report was reviewed, and some queries were answered. Councillor Budd would contact the Finance Officer regarding a query on the parking permits income.

Members agreed that the Council's insurance cover should be reviewed at the end of the current contract.

Members noted the transaction fees and commission for the car parking payments service were a considerable amount.

The budget report was noted.

6. Income Report

The report was reviewed and noted.

7. Weddings Feasibility Report

The Council’s wedding licence was due for renewal in July 2022. The provision of the Town Hall as a wedding venue was always to provide a low-cost local venue and not for profit making.

With the imminent opening of a wedding shop in the town and with further advertising it was felt the venue could be better advertised.

The main concerns raised were regarding staff costs for weekend weddings and the flower displays.

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer to continue to hold weddings at the Hall, provided they are staffed by the Town Hall Keeper, was agreed and wedding parties would need to provide their own floral arrangements.

8. Howard’s Lane Car Park Drainage Survey

The recommendation from the Amenities Committee to release £1,500 from earmarked reserves for a drainage investigation survey was agreed.

9. Grant Applications

(Councillor Cotton declared a personal interest and did not participate in the discussion or voting of this item).

Members considered grant applications received from voluntary and charitable bodies for the 2021/2022 financial year. It was noted that there was a set budget of £6,000, with the grant to the Royal British Legion for the provision of wreaths to be deducted.

The minded to decision of the Proper Officer to award grants of £1,000 to the Wareham Father Christmas Committee and Wareham Christmas Lights was agreed. The Town Council’s thanks and appreciation were to be conveyed.

10. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

Following a report to the informal meeting of members of the Amenities Committee held on 2 February regarding the replacement of boiler pumps at the Town Hall, the minded to decision of the Proper Officer to recommend the expenditure be taken from property earmarked reserves without delay was agreed.

11. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.00pm on 22 March 2022.

Chairman..... Date.....