

16th March 2021

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held virtually.

Minutes of the proceedings of the extraordinary meeting of the **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** meeting held virtually on this day from 7.30pm to 8.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman: M Gee

Councillors: R Bishop-Firth, N Campbell-White, P Cunnington, N Fox, S Gurney, D Lee, I Shepherd-Dubey and K Malvern

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk: Jan Nowecki

RFO: Nicky Harmsworth

Cllr T Lack

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies for absence were received.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

Cllr R Bishop-Firth declared a prejudicial interest because Michael Cragg, Envoy Associates, is a family friend.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

No questions were received.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee and seconded by Cllr D Lee and it was

**RESOLVED
30276**

that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted i.e. commercial, financial and personnel it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw

FINANCIAL POSITION FOR 2021/22 (Agenda Item5)

The RFO's report 11/2020 was received and the potential loss of income and planned expenditure for the first six months of the new financial year was discussed in detail.

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee and seconded by Cllr D Lee and it was

**RESOLVED
30277**

that owing to the continued Covid restrictions, the following events be cancelled this year:

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____



Street Concert
Cultural Month
Fun Day

Sunny Saturdays but this funding would still be available with the potential to fund events in HPG later in the year.

This equated to a saving of £47,100 which would be used to offset loss of income.

The Committee reviewed other projects and agreed that the Garden of Reflection and Portland Stone plaque could be postponed until later in the year and the committee would continue to monitor the Covid roadmap and keep additional expenditure under review until the September F&P meeting.

The Town Clerk was asked to update the committee in relation to the staff team. She confirmed that:

- The current lockdown had been very challenging for everyone as it has been for employees nationwide.
- There have been a couple of cases of ill-health but these have not been COVID related and remarkably the team has remained COVID free to date.
- Staff have continued to deliver the services of the Council wherever possible and alternative ways of delivery have been introduced where appropriate. WTC remains very responsive to the local community with officers available by phone in the first instance but socially distanced contact is taking place if necessary with for example tenants, contractors etc.
- Additional resources for health & wellbeing have been made available for all staff which includes a confidential counselling service through WTC's personnel provider.
- The team has been joining the vaccination centre with one member of staff supporting this on each shift. This has been appreciated by the surgery.

Councillors requested that their thanks be relayed to all staff for the approach they continue to take during this period.

ACTION: Town Clerk

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____

