

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee of Sandy Town Council which was held virtually via Zoom on Monday 14 September 2020 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, J Hewitt, A Hill, W Jackson, R Lock, C Osborne (Chair), M Pettitt, M Scott, and P Sharman.

In attendance: Mr C Robson (Town Clerk).

Actions

1 Apologies for absence (17-2020/21)

There were no apologies.

2 Declarations of interest (18-2020/21)

Councillors Jackson and Aldis declared an interest in agenda item 9 as trustees of the skatepark charity.

Councillor Pettitt declared an interest in agenda item 10 as Life Member of Sandy Cricket Club and Vice President of Sandy Colts.

3 Minutes of previous meeting (19-2020/21)

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 3 August 2020 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session (20-2020/21)

There were no questions from Members of the public.

5 Financial Reports (21-2020/21)

i) Members considered a balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for July 2020. Members went through the detailed financial statements page by page. **RESOLVED** to note the balance sheet and detailed financial statement.

ii) Members received a budget overview report for July 2020. The Clerk explained that the cost for the annual playground inspection had increased, but that the office had signalled an interest in joining with Parks East on a tender for playground inspections which may result in a cheaper rate.

Members noted that a water rate bill for Sunderland Road was exceptionally high and that this was being looked at further. Other water rates were now under or within budget. Alternative providers were also being investigated. It was noted that there were no further concerns and it was **RESOLVED** to note the budget reports.

iii) Members scrutinised a schedule of payments made since the

Sandy Town Council

previous meeting.

A Member queried a payment for corex signs and the Clerk confirmed this was for more durable COVID19 signage in play parks.

A Member queried a payment to Woodfines Solicitors for legal fees and the Clerk clarified that this was for work on the renewal of a lease with the SSLA for the all-weather pitch. 50% of this cost would be invoiced to the SSLA.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule.

iv) It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair of Policy Finance and Resources check and approve the bank reconciliations and statements.

Cllr
Osborne

6 Council Phone Contract Review (22-2020/21)

Members received and considered a report and recommendation on renewal of the Council's telephone contract.

It was Proposed and Seconded that the Council approve the recommendation in the report that Company D's quotation be accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council approve the recommendation that the Council accept Company D's quotation for the provision of broadband and the Council's telephone service.

Admin

7 Council IT Support Contract Review (23-2020/21)

Members received and considered a report and recommendation on renewal of the Council's IT contract. Members commented that they were supportive of the recommendation and that ultimately it was the office that would be using the IT and it was in their interest to ensure the best support was sought. A Member stated that they would like to see further discussion on getting designated '.gov.uk' Councillor email addresses.

Admin

It was Proposed and Seconded that the Council resolve all three of the recommendations in the report.

A Member queried why two new PC's were needed. The Clerk stated that the two Windows 7 PCs were no longer supported, and Microsoft would no longer provide updates. It had been the recommendation of each IT company approached that new PC's be purchased.

It was **RESOLVED** that Company A's quotation for a 3-year contract for the Council's IT provision and support be accepted.

Sandy Town Council

It was **RESOLVED** that Company A's quotation for the provision and installation of two new Windows 10 PC's at a cost of £970.00 be accepted and that this will be funded from the 2020/21 Rolling Capital Reserve.

It was **RESOLVED** that a further report and information be considered by the Human Resources committee on the potential of Microsoft 365 user accounts for Councillors.

8 **Speed Indicator Signage (24-2020/21)**

Members received and considered a report and recommendation on the purchase of a SID sign for Sandy. Members had previously supported a motion that the Town Council purchase a sign for siting at points to be agreed in Sandy. A Member commented that they felt the signs with the happy/unhappy faces were more effective. This was supported and a Member suggested that data demonstrated that these signs had a greater impact on drivers' behaviour than alternative signs.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council purchase a Smiley Activated Sign (SAM) from Company A at a cost of £2,856.00 to be taken from the Rolling Capital Reserve.

The Town Clerk would liaise with Highways over appropriate locations for the sign and seek sign off from the CSE Committee prior to making the purchase.

Town
Clerk

The Chairman left the meeting at this point and the Vice Chairman, Cllr P Blaine took over Chairing of the meeting.

9 **Section 106 Funds (25-2020/21)**

Members received further information on skateparks and discussed whether the committee wished to make an application to apply available section 106 funding towards a skatepark project. Members thanked the office for the comprehensive report and indicated their support for such a project. Concerns were raised at the total cost of a skatepark project and how the Council could raise that money. It was commented that by making an application for some initial Sc106 funds it would start the project, show the Council's commitment, and help in getting additional funding. It would however be a long project due to the high cost of a skatepark. Any new facility should take into account BMX and scooter use.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council apply to commit section 106 funds to a future skateboard project.

It was **RESOLVED** that a proposed delivery plan will need to be drawn up advising on how a project could be developed and identifying

Sandy Town Council

potential funding opportunities.

10 Sports Clubs Charges 2020 (26-2020/21)

Members considered a request received in relation to 2020/21 sports club charges. Members discussed the impact COVID19 had had on clubs and organisations and their ability to play and carry out their usual functions. It was suggested that the Council should be flexible where it could in regards to charges it applied, and a proposal was made and seconded that the Clerk work out charges based on playing time lost as a result of COVID 19. This would be for this year only, with all charges as per any leases applying as usual for all future years.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council applies a reduction in its charges for sports club rents to take into account time not played due to COVID19 for the financial year 2020/21.

Cllr Pettitt abstained from voting.

Admin

11 Metal Detector Policy (27-2020/21)

Members reviewed the Council's Metal Detector Policy.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council readopt the metal detector policy.

Admin

12 Chairman's Items (28-2020/21)

There were no Chairman's items, however the Chairman of PFR had previously reminded Members that the Council would begin its 2021/22 budget setting process at the next meeting of the committee.

13 Date of next meeting (29-2020/21)

It was noted that the next Policy, Finance and Resources Committee meeting will be on Monday 26th October 2020.