



**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council's
Finance and Policy Executive Committee
held via video conferencing software Zoom on Thursday 25
March 2021 at 10:00hrs**

Present - Councillors

B Smedley - Chair

G Burrows

G Granter

L Leavy

L Lerry

K Pearce

L Redman

In Attendance:

David Mears – Town Clerk, Fiona Tuck - Finance Assistant and Councillor G Slocombe – non-committee member. There were no members of the public or press present.

FEC2021/08 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies had been received from Councillor Cordiner who had a prior work commitment.

RESOLVED – to accept the apology and note the reason given.

FEC2021/09 Declarations of interests - Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

None declared.

FEC2021/10 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 February 2021 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Finance and Policy Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 February 2021 be signed as a correct record.

FEC2021/11 Financial Year End 2020/21 – to receive provisional financial projections for the remainder of the financial year and to agree Earmarked reserves

The Town Clerk gave an outline of the provisional financial projections for the remainder of the financial year together with the proposed Earmarked reserves and took questions from Councillors.

The Town Clerk and staff were formally thanked for their work in bringing the budget forward.

RESOLVED –to note the budget projections and approve the Earmarked reserves as listed.

FEC2021/12 Finance – to authorise the Town Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Smedley to make budget virements within the 2020/21 budget to ensure expenditure budget headings are not showing a variance over 15%

RESOLVED – to authorise the Town Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Smedley to make budget virements within the 2020/21 budget to ensure expenditure budget headings are not showing a variance over 15%

FEC2021/13 Lodge – to agree to use general council funds and not CIL funds to cover the cost of the refurbishment

RESOLVED – to use general council funds to cover the cost of the refurbishment.

FEC2021/14 Hinkley Point C – to agree a response to the request for an uplift in worker numbers

The Town Clerk updated Councillors on the position with EDF and the request for an uplift in worker numbers. There is an argument that this is a material change and if so, this will be a decision for the Planning Authorities to take to the Secretary of State for approval.

The Town Clerk advised that Council should seek to mitigate against this uplift and therefore it would be necessary to look at projects that should have mitigated funding. In discussion, EDF had also indicated that they would be open to help fund a Legacy project for which Council would also need to identify projects. To this end Councillors Smedley and Redman had outlined proposals which could be divided between mitigation and legacy and drawn up a priorities list which could be used as reference and will be both comprehensive and targeted.

Councillor Redman introduced a draft letter, to be sent to EDF, SEAG and the Transport Forum, which formalised the Council's concerns regarding the impact of the proposed uplift on the Town, that the Town Council wished to be involved in negotiations going forward, and listing the long term aims of the Council.

RESOLVED – to accept the draft letter with the addition of Councillor Granters concerns regarding healthcare facilities, and to delegate the Town Clerk, Councillor Smedley and Councillor Redman to formalise a response to EDF.

FEC2021/15 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public –To agree that agenda item FEC2021/16 be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

RESOLVED – that agenda item FEC2021/16 be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. Councillor Slocombe was invited to remain for confidential session on this occasion.

FEC2021/16 Staffing

a) To receive a general staffing update and update on staff annual leave balances

RESOLVED – to note the update.

b) To receive an update on the Lodge renovation and discussions with former landlord

RESOLVED – to note the update.

With no further business the meeting closed at 11.15 hrs.

Signed

Date