

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
held on
14 OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Dave Mackie

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: As per Council Meeting

192/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per Planning Committee meeting.

193/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Janet Axworthy, Dave Mackie, Ryan O’Gorman and Helen Brown declared an interest in the Review of Fees and Charges report and duly completed their forms.

194/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 9th September 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

195/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

196/19 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the updated list of payments for October in the sum of £50,732.37 be approved.

197/19 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES:

The Clerk and Financial Officer sought approval to increase the Council’s fees and charges in line with inflation for all services.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- i) To approve an increase of 1.8% in allotment fees, in line with the rate of inflation and rounded up to the nearest pound;
- ii) Review fees for Hawarden High School in 2020 following improvements to the ground and a potential reduction in grass cutting;

48 Chair’s Signature: _____

- iii) Defer the fees and charges for the Bowling Club and Tennis courts to a future meeting with a full background report; and
- iv) Retain the current fees for Football licences.

198/19 CIRCULAR DRIVE PLAY AREA:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had sought approval to add the replacement of the front fence at Circular Drive to the contract recently awarded for the refurbishment of the play area. The current fence was in a poor state of disrepair and could have a negative impact on the project once completed. A quote had been obtained by the contractor for this purpose at a net cost of £1,300. An application for match funding had also been submitted to the County Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the quote to replace the fencing at Circular Drive play area for inclusion within the wider refurbishment project.

199/19 PURCHASE OF METAL MICKEY CAMERA:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had researched the provision of a Metal Mickey camera, as approved at the previous meeting, and shared the details and costings with Members. Members felt that the cost had been excessive and sought additional information from the Police.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer discussion on this item pending further negotiations with the Police about the equipment required.

200/19 AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES FOR CHEQUE PAYMENTS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to add Councillor Dave Mackie as an authorised signatory for cheques alongside Councillors Clive Carver and Ralph Small.

201/19 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a report to show the Council's half yearly income and expenditure position and explain any variances. Councillor Dave Mackie commented on how well the report had been prepared and commended the Clerk.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and accept the report.

202/19 CLERK & FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised of the following:

- i) that the Council's contribution to the Joint Maintenance Agreement for the month of October had been £17,137.95.

- ii) the Council's insurance company, Came and Co., had been part of the Stackhouse Poland Group. On 4th November 2019 the business of Stackhouse Poland Limited would be acquired by Arthur J Gallagher group of companies. This was for members information and there would be no change in the way that the Council's business would be conducted or insurance claims dealt with.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

203/19 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the bank reconciliation for the period ending 30th September 2019 which had been emailed to members earlier in the day.

204/19 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor Janet Axworthy. She had been working with the community group, Ewloe Green Action Group, who had been opposed to the proposals contained within the Flintshire Local Development Plan. She had purchased some postcards for residents to submit to the County Council outlining their objections at a cost of £195 and had sought retrospective financial assistance from the Community Council.

A discussion ensued during which many Members felt that caution should be exercised as to approve this request would set a precedent for any number of similar requests. Members also commented that these types of cards, petitions and standard letters would not be effective in the planning process. Individual letters written by residents would have more impact. In addition, objections alone would not be considered by the County Council as the Council had indicated that alternative sites should be proposed when making any objections.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to not accede to this request as outlined above.

50 Chair's signature _____