

Council Offices, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG

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**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Finance and Governance Committee

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7.00pm

**PLACE:** Council Chamber, Council Offices, Commercial Road, Weymouth,

Dorset, DT4 8NG

**Present**

**Councillors**

Cllr Gray (C) Cllr Northam Cllr Hope

Cllr Whatley Cllr Huckle (VC) Cllr Lambert

Cllr Legg Cllr Wakeling Cllr Frost

**Apologies**

Cllr Nickinson Cllr Dickenson

**Absent Councillors**

Cllr Hamilton

**Officers**

Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk) Ian Milne (Deputy Town Clerk)

Charmaine Denny (Assistant Town Clerk) Tony Hurley (Operations Manager)

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| F0183 | **Welcome by the Chair**  Cllr Gray welcomed those in attendance. |
| F0184 | **Apologies for Absence**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Northam  Apologies were unanimously approved from Cllr Nickinson and Cllr Dickenson. |
| F0185  F0186 | **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr Huckle declared that the Veterans Hub, for which this Committee will be considering a grant application, is the Mayor’s chosen charity, going under the name of the David Ellis Charity.  **Minutes of the last meeting**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Whatley Seconder: Cllr Wakeling  Councillors voted by a majority of 8 in favour, with none against and 1 abstention, to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 as a correct record, and these were duly signed. |
| F0187 | **Councillors Questions**  There were no Councillor questions. |
| F0188 | **Public Comments and Questions**  There were no public questions. |
| F0189 | **Grant Applications**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item as detailed in the agenda documentation.  **The Lantern Trust, Weymouth – Safe Sleep 21/22**  The Lantern Trust has already received a grant from WTC this financial year. The grant policy states that organisations can receive only one grant per financial year. In addition, the recommendation is to award a grant of £5k, which is above the £2k limit stated in the WTC Grant Policy. There have been a low number of applications this year due to Covid.  It was highlighted that, due to Covid, The Lantern Trust are having to use hotel provision where everyone has access to a single room, rather than using church halls as it would usually do. Members supported the awarding of the recommended amount but were concerned that this should not set a precedent to be awarding second grants and double grants.  Cllr Hope suggested that WTC should consider setting a budget allocation to The Lantern going forward to scope some work that WTC wants The Lantern to undertake in the town. Cllr Gray continued that he would like Cllr Hope to put his suggestion to the Budget Sub-Group, which will be discussing the setting of next year’s budget.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Whatley  Members voted unanimously in favour of allocating the recommended amount of £5,000.  **The Veterans Hub – Expanding the support hub**  Cllr Wakeling proposed that The Veterans Hub be awarded the full £2k rather than the recommended amount of £1800.00. This was seconded by Cllr Hope. Jane Biscombe explained that the recommended amount was less than the requested amount due to the proportionality aspect of the policy.  Members voted on Cllr Wakeling’s amendment to the recommendation.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Hope  Members voted by a minority of 4 in favour, with 5 against, to award the full amount of £2k. Therefore, the motion was defeated.  Members then voted on the original recommendation as detailed in the agenda documentation.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Legg Seconder: Cllr Northam  Members voted unanimously in favour of awarding the recommended amount of £1800.00. |
| F0190  F0191  F0192  F0193  F0194  F0195  F0196  F0197  F0198 | **Q2 Budget Monitoring Report**  Ian Milne introduced the report.  The Tumbledown Farm income had been projected based on infrastructure being put in place. A planning application is not likely to be submitted before the next financial year. However, what has been done at Tumbledown is that costs have been controlled and very little of the £100k allocated last year has been spent.  The two WTC cafes achieved a net profit of just under £30k in the first two quarters, which is more than the anticipated annual rental income for both units. A closure of 10 days due to Covid had negatively affected income generated.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Hope  Members voted unanimously in favour to agree to recommend the Quarter 2 finance report for the period ending 30 September 2021 to Full Council.  **Reallocation of reserves to support special commemorative events and projects for 2022**  Tony Hurley introduced the report.  Concern was raised regarding the Committee being asked to allocate more money than is needed. Cllr Northam proposed that the Committee recommend to Full Council the reallocation of £20,500for this expenditure, rather than the entire VE/VJ reserve of £29,422. This was seconded by Cllr Whatley.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Whatley  Members voted by a minority of 4 in favour, with 5 against, to recommended to Full Council the reallocation of £20,500 of the VE/VJ reserve as detailed above.  Cllr Hope proposed that the Committee recommends to Full Council the reallocation of the VE/VJ reserve of £29,422 in order to fund both special events and community grant schemes in 2022. However, should the Services Committee choose not to proceed with a fireworks display, or an alternative display, only £20,500 of the reserve will be spent and the remaining £8922 would remain in the VE/VJ reserves.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Gray  Members voted by a majority of 7 in favour, with none against and 2 abstentions, to recommend to Full Council the reallocation of the VE/VJ reserve of £29,422 in order to fund both special events and community grant schemes in 2022. However, should the Services Committee choose not to proceed with a fireworks display, or an alternative display, only £20,500 of the reserve will be spent and the remaining £8922 would remain in the VE/VJ reserves.  **Appointment of Internal Auditors for 2021/22**  Ian Milne introduced the report.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Members voted unanimously in favour of reappointing South West Audit Partnership as the Internal Auditor for Weymouth Town Council for the 2022/23 financial year.  The **Wyke Community Building and Swannery Market Office Future Options**  Charmaine Denny introduced the report.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Legg  Members voted unanimously in favour of the Finance and Governance Committee:  a) agreeing to keep the Market Office at the Swannery as a staff facility for the Radipole Parks Team, and  b) agreeing to a procurement exercise being undertaken to secure a 3 year lease agreement for the Wyke Community Building.  **Beach Operations Building**  Charmaine Denny introduced the report.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Northam  Members voted unanimously in favour of the Committee agreeing to the execution of a pre-engagement survey as detailed in the report for the southern compartment of the beach operations building on Weymouth Beach.  **Information Items**  **Actions from previous meetings**  Cllr Northam was satisfied that the action for Ian Milne to meet with him with regards to the Neighbourhood Planning accounts has been addressed, and a number of conversations have been undertaken via email.  **Resolved:**  Members noted the information items.  **Radipole Park and Gardens Café**  Charmaine Denny introduced the report.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Huckle  Members voted unanimously in favour of the Finance and Governance Committee approving officers to carry out a procurement exercise for the Radipole Park Gardens Café as set out in the report.  **Exclusion of the press and public**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Whatley  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing to exclude the public and press.  **Confidential Item – Sundry Debtors**  Councillors noted the item and thanked officers for their work on achieving such a positive out turn so far.  The meeting closed at 20:19 |