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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 27th October at 7.30 pm. This meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

Present: G. Hussey (Chairman), G. Sallows (Vice Chairman) M. Cooke, R. Allen, M. Fillmore, R. Gatt, G. Fleming, V. Saunders and G. Adams
L. Bannister (Clerk)
HDC & WSCC Cllr. Kitchen

Cllr. Hussey advised that the meeting is being recorded, and the recording will be deleted once the Minutes are approved.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Bender and Forrest.

2 Co-option of new Councillor

It was RESOLVED to co-opt Gary Adams to the position of Member with immediate effect. Cllr. Adams signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and it was agreed that the Clerk can sign this before the next meeting.

3 Declaration of Interests

None.

4 Approval of Minutes of the previous Meeting

These were agreed by Council and duly signed by Cllr. Hussey.

5 Open Forum

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.

No members of the public were present.

The meeting was resumed.

6 Reports from other Authorities

Cllr. Hogben was unable to attend the meeting. This item was adjourned until Cllr. Kitchen could attend.

7 Requirements for budget for 2021/22

The Clerk requested that Members consider what they want to achieve in the next financial year. The following was suggested:-

- 4-5 months' staff costs and a buffer of £1,000 for the Neighbourhood Plan review.
- Repairs to the playground of £1,500.
- Community support for Covid-19 volunteer support. Cllrs. Allen and Cooke to recommend an amount to the Clerk.
- Website improvements - £500-£1,000.
- Traffic calming - £5,000-£7,000.

- Rent for recreation ground is still to be confirmed but is likely to show an increase to almost £2,000.
- The Clerk's salary is being reviewed and this should be taken into account.
- Increase to the earmarked reserves for repairs to the recreation ground.

8 Reports from other Authorities (cont.)

Cllr. Kitchen reported as follows:-

- The Courage Dyer trust still need a representative from Rusper.
- The new cycle lanes in Horsham have not been well received. Some of the lanes in West Sussex have already been removed.
- WSCC has funding available to help people in need due to the pandemic. This is being distributed via the volunteer hubs.
- Horsham park has received an international award.
- Cllr. Kitchen has attended the Gatwick Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group. There is a perceived problem with 'go arounds' but these are actually training flights.
- The Lambs Green layby planning application has been put back out to consultation.
- Cllr. Kitchen has visited the Sports Horses International site and suggested that the agent speaks to Rusper PC about their plans for the site.

9 Approval of meeting dates for 2021

It was RESOLVED to approve these. Meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month, except the August meeting (which will only be held if necessary) and the December meeting (which will be held on the third Tuesday).

10 Approval of costs of ground sockets for Vehicle Activated Sign

Three quotes were received for this of £2,686.31, £4,508.01 and £2,618.29. It was agreed to get another quote from a local company.

11 Report on Recreation Ground lease and approval of terms

It was RESOLVED to approve the terms proposed that have been negotiated to date. It was noted that the insurance position is still to be agreed.

It was noted that there is a hearing coming up. The landlord may challenge the validity of the court application at this hearing. **It was RESOLVED** to approve expenditure to related to this hearing at a maximum cost of £7000.

12 Laying of wreath on Remembrance Sunday

This will be laid by Cllr. Hussey.

Cllr. Allen is working with Rev. Flint to prepare a video in lieu of a physical service.

13 Approval of bench for Remembrance

It was RESOLVED to purchase the war horse bench seat from David Olgivie at a cost of £896 plus VAT, £105 plus VAT for delivery and £29 plus VAT underground leg extensions.

This will be installed near to the beacon.

14 Report from representatives

Cllr. Cooke will be attending the West Sussex Association of Local Councils AGM.

Report on Horsham Association of Local Councils AGM -

Cllr. Gatt attended the meeting and reported as follows:-

- HDC gave an update on their Planning White Paper consultation response.
- HDC plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 (beating the 2050 deadline by 20 years). The main issues for them are their building stock and vehicle fleet. They have a re-wilding officer in post trying to conjure support for their projects. The conflict of this with their housing requirement was pointed out.

- HDC gave an update of Covid-19 on their finances. They have a shortfall of around £4m but believe they will survive the recession.

Cllr. Allen reported that the Village Hall has been visited by a contractor for HDC who is working on their community facilities study.

Gatwick Airport related correspondence and reports - Cllr. Fillmore has circulated various reports and information. The proposal for charging for drop offs was not well received. Cllr. Fillmore will make further representations to Gatwick about this to make it clear that Rusper PC would not support this.

Cllr. Sallows has circulated the proposed response to the Planning White Paper consultation. This will be submitted by the Clerk.

Cllr. Fleming has made a complaint to Love West Sussex about various roads in Rusper. The Clerk has also submitted a complaint on behalf of Rusper PC.

Cllr. Hussey and the Clerk met with grounds contractors about the grass cutting contract.

15 Clerk's report

Correspondence

The following letters have been received:-

- Communities Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions PC Forum minutes.
- Information on the community facilities study being undertaken by Horsham District Council.
- A report on the S106 funding available for Rusper.
- A report from the West Sussex Association of Local Councils explaining their review.
- Information from the West Sussex Waste Prevention Team.

Other

- There are a few small grants available that would be suitable for a re-wilding project. More information can be obtained when details about the project have been decided.
- A lower price for the notice boards could not be negotiated, so the contract has been agreed at £3670 plus VAT. The contractor has sent a picture of the proposed boards.
- A tree inspection is required as per the Tree Policy. The Clerk will get some quotes for this.
- Wates Construction has agreed to re-position their lights to shine away from Rusper Road.
- Further Operation Watershed work has been carried out at The Mount. This will be invoiced shortly and will be paid from the Operation Watershed funds that are already being held. WSCC has confirmed that if the original contractor invoices Rusper PC for the original work they will pay them directly.
- Highways has given authority for the oak bollards on the High Street to be replaced. The contractor has been instructed.
- SSE are temporarily increasing their non-commodity cost by 0.201p/kwh.

16 Finances

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

These were verified by Cllr. Fillmore, who produced a report on the accounts.

Quarter 2 budget report

The Clerk recommend that £1,250 is transferred from the recreation ground earmarked reserve to the recreation ground budget heading to cover the costs of the surveyors fees. **It was RESOLVED** to approve this.

It was noted that:-

- The earmarked reserve for road/traffic will be spent by the ground sockets and oak bollards in the High Street. This fund can be replenished in the next financial year.
- There is a projected surplus of approximately £7000.

External Auditor's report

The finances for 2019/20 were approved by the external auditor with no qualifications or questions raised. This has been published on the website along with a notice of conclusion of audit.

Approval of Direct Debit payments

It was RESOLVED that the following payments be made as Direct Debits:-

- HDC, emptying of dog bins - £22.96 monthly
- HDC, car part rates - £130 monthly for 10 months out of 12
- SSE, street light electricity - £50 maximum monthly
- Lloyds, bank fees - £10 maximum monthly
- 1&1 Internet, email/website hosting - £30 approximately monthly and £100 annually
- BT, broadband/phone line - £60 approximately monthly
- Information Commissioner's Office, data protection subscription - £35 annually

New bank accounts for money held

The Clerk provided a report on the bank accounts available and recommended that funds are transferred to a different bank. **It was RESOLVED** to:-

- Open a current account with Unity Bank
- Open a Nationwide Saver account and transfer £20,000 to this
- Review Metro Bank in the new year with a view to opening a second savings account
- Close the accounts with Lloyds

Cllr. Fillmore will speak to his contact at Metro Bank to find out if they would be willing to open an account for us now.

Invoices to pay

It was RESOLVED to pay the following:

Salaries – £966.58

Sussex Land Services - £457.34

Moore, external audit - £360.00

C Forrest, remembrance wreath - £50.00

Age UK - £100.00

All of these payments will be sent via bank transfer.

17 Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on 24th November 2020 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER
CLERK