

CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL – POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

15 NOVEMBER 2021

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Chairman Cllr Child; Councillors Atkinson, Bicknell, Bourne, , Dolbear, Evans Holden-Brown and Ricketts

In Attendance: Duncan Murray (Parish Clerk) and Hilary Blaker (Deputy Finance Officer [DFO]).

Public Participation:

There was one member of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Cllrs Broadhurst and Johnson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING OF 25 OCTOBER 2021.

Following checks for accuracy and following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands these were AGREED.

4. MATTERS FOR RESOLUTION

a. To note/discuss the reconciled Reserves position.

The Clerk briefed Members that the Reserves position was stated, and previously verified by Internal Audit in Box 7 of the AGAR Form that was signed off in June. Therefore, the position was clear that the reserves cited in the Balance Sheet should match the position in Box 7 of the annual Accounting Report. The Clerk had reconciled the figures back to Box 7 from 31 March 2017 to 31 March 2021. Members asked questions and received answers on the matter and after debate it was agreed that the Clerk/RFO and the Chair of Audit and Risk should work with the accountants to get the correct Balance Sheet figures.

b. To discuss and agree whether to approve funds for the materials for the schools' lantern parades (taking place within schools, not at Fryern Arcade) suggested maximum £1,000.

The Clerk commented that as the previous year's Lantern Parade had been cancelled, he was suggesting that the figure available should be doubled up from the usual £500 as there might well be more families unable to afford the material costs. The question was asked if £1k would be enough, the Clerk suggested that the approval for the expenditure could include recognition that the Clerk and Chair could authorise further expenditure under Fin Reg 4.1 as there would be chance to review it before the materials were needed. Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the expenditure was AGREED with the Fin Reg 4.1 top-up.

c. To note that there is ERDF funding available for Xmas lights etc through EBC along with other temporary interventions to help the 'High Street'/Local shops.

The Clerk reported that the expenditure would be temporary and refunded by EBC Welcome Back Fund under an ERDF project. Light strings had been ordered, some 900m with 4No. power sources at a cost of £2.3k ex VAT. A further suggestion was that of 4-foot pre-lit, wall-mounted, artificial trees to kick-start further 'Christmas in Chandler's Ford' initiatives.

d. To make any alterations to the draft meeting schedule for 2022.

The schedule was noted with a request that dates were checked against the EBC Master Schedule to ensure there weren't any clashes with other meetings.

5. TO NOTE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- i. **To agree the payments made from the SAGE payment summary, to authorise payments due, to sign cheques.**

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands these were AGREED.

6. TO MATTERS TO BE TAKEN TO THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT AGENDA.

Statement of Reserves follow-up.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date was confirmed as Monday 17 January 2022, in person at Fryern Pavilion.

That being all the business the meeting closed at 7.55p.m.

Chairman.....