

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2020 AT 9.15 AM

Present: Councillors S Jones (Chair)
 A Dodwell
 D Bowater
 C Palmer
 R Berry
 T Morris
 G Perham
 D Scott
 M Freeman
 R Goodchild
 S Owen

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio, Town Clerk
 M Jahn, Committee Officer
 Cllr K Cursons
 Cllr V Harvey

Members of the public: 0
Members of the press 0

151/PF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

152/PF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. Councillor C Palmer declared a personal interest as a Member of The Friends of Leighton-Linslade in Bloom in relation to the flowerbeds around Taylor's and across the road on which they worked.

153/PF EXPENDITURE FROM RESERVES

(a) The Committee received and considered the recommendation made by the Planning and Transport Committee on 21 October 2020 for the supply and installation of bus shelters in West Street. The amount to be drawn down from General reserves for the supply and installation of up to 4 bus shelters had been amended from £12,000 to £16,000 with the installation of the first two shelters taking place in the week beginning 16 November and the other two shelters in the week beginning 23 November.

A question was raised regarding the size of the shelters and how many they

could accommodate during the current coronavirus restrictions. Highways had advised these shelters would be fit for purpose and once purchased would be Town Council assets to use or relocate as they see fit when the situation arose.

Councillor Owen spoke on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group to reiterate this decision should have been made much earlier in the year. The bus shelters in the High Street had been disused since the 16 June and after discussions with Central Bedfordshire Council and a time period of 8 weeks nothing had been decided. At the 24 August Council meeting a motion was presented by the Liberal Democrat Group to request the Town Clerk discussed the provision of bus shelters and benches with Central Bedfordshire Council but the motion was not carried. A further question was raised at the Council meeting on 28 September 2020 whether any update had been received regarding the bus shelters, but no further installation updates had been received. The Liberal Democrats felt the people of the town deserved an apology for the confusion and delay in supplying bus shelters in West Street.

A further question was raised as to whether the shelters contained real-time display and it was confirmed this was ready for operation.

On voting the recommendation was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that a total of up to £12,000 be drawn down from earmarked Reserve 920/90565 – Highway Schemes (£29,080) and a further £16,000 to be drawn down from General reserves for the supply and installation of up to 4 number ‘Bay Standard Shelters with quarter end panels’ to be used in West Street as occasioned by the TRO for the High Street, as Town Council assets, the shelters to remain located within the parish to ensure ongoing benefit to residents.

(b) The Committee received and considered the recommendation from Planning and Transport Committee on 21 October 2020 that up to £4,000 be drawn down from Earmarked Reserve 920/9056 – Highways Schemes – for railings to surround the flower beds outside Taylors Estate Agents on North Street and on the opposite side.

After discussion members agreed these railings should be installed on highway safety grounds, both on the side of Taylors Estate Agents and also on the opposite side to stop people stepping out onto the road.

RESOLVED that a total of £4,000 be drawn down from Earmarked Reserve 920/9056 – Highways Schemes – for railings to surround the flower beds outside Taylors Estate Agents on North Street and on the opposite side (subject to permission from Central Bedfordshire Council).

(c) The Committee received and considered a proposal to purchase laptops for staff use, due to home working and distancing requirements

arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED that a total of £1,258 from earmarked reserve 9060/920 (IT/Mod.Gov) be drawn down for the purchase of two laptops for staff use, due to home working and distancing requirements.

The meeting closed at 9.45 am.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2020.

Chair

16 NOVEMBER 2020