

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD MONDAY 27th APRIL 2020 At 7pm VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL.

Present: Cllrs K Clifford, J Gardiner, H West, A Parr, J Hay, P Arnott, R Watts, R Turner, E Jones, C Pady, C Denny and S Real. Also S Haines (clerk)

F20/04/01 Apologies for absence: None received Cllr A Jarman absent.

F20/04/02 The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 23rd March 2020

(Appendix W) to be approved Proposed by Cllr Pady, seconded by Cllr Jones Cllrs Watts, Denny, Gardiner, Real, Arnott and Hay all abstained to vote as they were not present at the meeting.

F20/04/03 Matters arising from the minutes. None

F20/04/04 Declarations of interest None

F20/04/05 Democratic Period – opportunity for public questions & comments. (Total time 15 minutes, each individual 3 minutes). The Clerk read out the following Email on behalf of a local resident.

In its current neglected state Mill Field has become a valuable local wildlife site. I have seen protected species such as slow worms on the site and other reptiles such grass snakes are likely to be present as I have seen them in my adjacent garden. It is also likely that dormice live in the surrounding hedges from the evidence of gnawed hazelnuts. I have also recently seen ground nesting birds such as chiffchaffs and birds which nest in brambles and nettles such as whitethroat on the site.

Clearance of the site with a machine would undoubtedly harm protected species and such work would be illegal without first being checked and approved by an ecologist.

I would therefore request that the council reconsider the need for complete clearance of the site as it would destroy a scarce habitat.

If however such clearance is deemed necessary it should only be carried out at a more appropriate time ie during the autumn or winter under ecological supervision.

F20/04/06 Balanced Accounts for the period 1st March – 31st March 2020 and for the Financial Year just ended. Approval needed to commence 2019-2020 External Audit. Approved, Proposed by Cllr West, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all.

F20/04/07 Accounts to be presented for payment:

BACS	Mrs S Haines	Salary	840.54		£872.34
		Overtime 6hrs	69.00		
		Stamps	7.80		
		Minus Pension	45		
BACS	Mr J Rollings	Salary	889.81		£838.52
		Mileage 52 x0.45	23.40		
		Fuel	4.43	.88	
		Minus Pension	80.00		
4319	HMRC	Tax	227.20		£353.28
		NI Employee	50.94		
		NI Employer	75.14		
DD	NEST PENSION	Employees	125.00		£154.53
		Employer	29.53		
4318	Colyton Feoffees	Annual rent of office.	1500		£1500
BACS	Moleavon	Equipment for John	26.03	5.20	£31.23
BACS	Halcyon	Grounds Maintenance March 2020	468.33	93.67	£562.00
BACS	Heartsafe AED	Replacement Pad Pak	99.00	21.78	£130.68
		Postage	9.90		

Cllr Jones commented to the Clerk that BACS for Moleavon – Equipment for John needed to include more detail. The clerk agreed with this statement, the equipment was strimmer cord, disposable gloves and surface wipes.

All accounts approved for payment, proposed by Cllr Clifford, seconded by Cllr Watts, agreed by all.

- a) P60's printed and distributed - noted
- b) Confirmation of Devon Communities Together membership now valid. - noted
- c) Invoice received from Bargain Host for £50 for an Add on of 50GB of webspace. Payment due 16/05/2020. - noted
- d) Certificate of interest received from Cambridge Building Society. - noted
- e) Cllr Pady proposal for Mr Voysey to do some works up at Mill Field, quote of £150 to complete works to be approved.

Cllr West stated that the original decision made last year during a site visit at which Cllrs Jones, West and Parr were present was to do nothing to the site during the autumn and then kill the weeds in the spring of 2020. Cllr Jones agreed to this statement and said no machinery was agreed to be used on site. Cllr West also stated that there was a question over land ownership as the land is not registered with the Land Registry. Cllr Parr agreed that that decision did take place however now brambles have taken over the site and so machinery is needed, there is too much bramble and wire to be able to flay it as it will get tangled in the machinery. The deed box contains the documents and there has never been a dispute over who owns the land. Cllr Gardiner commented that the price from Mr Voysey is a very good one and there is no reason for us not to register the land if it has been looked after by the Council for many years. Cllr Denny declared that if there is wildlife on the site as the letter from the resident states then we are duty bound to have the land surveyed before undertaking any works. He stated that he can gather some quotes from ecologists and try to find some who are still working. Cllr Arnott agreed completely with Cllr Denny, no works can go ahead until a survey is completed, this will need to be deferred to the full meeting for costing. Cllr Jones asked what the urgency was for completing these works. This was met with a reply from Cllr Hay saying 'it is because of the time of year you stupid b****r' Cllr Watts explained that the urgency was due to the original time frame of the project and he proposed that we defer the acceptance of the quote from Mr Voysey until we have the result of an ecological survey on the site, this was seconded by Cllr Arnott and agreed by all except Cllrs West and Jones who abstained from voting.

- f) £781.39 CIL Money received taking total CIL to £3924.16. - Noted

F20/04/08 Four Councillors needed to volunteer to do this year's internal audits. Cllr West has volunteered, just need three more Councillors to come forward and volunteer.

F20/04/09 Items received after the agenda published – to be noted Cllr Turner allowed the clerk to raise some concerns on the cost of these telephone conference calls. The conference call service is free but the dial in is at a high rate. The Parish Council would agree to reimburse any cost incurred to the Councillors. The clerk has worked out that as a Councillor has reported to her, a 30 min call cost him just over £6, if we were to times that by four to cover a full meeting lasting two hours, then times by 13 to cover all Councillors then that is going to cost over £300 for a full meeting and over £200 for the shorter committee meetings. We cannot justify spending £500 a month for the foreseeable future on meetings. With this in mind Zoom is £11.99 a month for unlimited minutes, you can video or dial in. This is currently being used by East Devon Council. Cllr Arnott has confirmed that it is working well and is extremely easy to us. Would the Council be prepared to try Zoom on Monday 4th May for the Amenities committee meeting? This was agreed to try it out.

F20/05/10 Dates of next meetings

Amenities Meeting – Monday 4th May

CPC Full meeting - Monday 11th May

Finance & Planning – Tuesday 26th May.

