

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at Kingsway Community Centre on Monday 3rd February 2020

PRESENT: Cllr G Smith, Cllr Pearce, Cllr G Williams, Cllr Lee and Cllr Hughes

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs J Webster – Town Clerk & RFO

F.176/19-20 Apologies
Cllr S Smith, Cllr Mrs McAllan and Cllr Harries
Apologies noted.

F.177/19-20 Declarations of Interest.
None

F.178/19-20 To Approve the Minutes dated – 6th January 2020
Cllr Smith **PROPOSED** to adopt the above Minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
Seconded: Cllr Hughes: Vote: unanimous: **So resolved**

F.179/19-20 To report on previous actions set on 6th January 2020
None

F.180/19-20 Correspondence
Cllr G Smith reported on the Saturday Surgery. He received a comment regarding the precept. He also advised that that same person had commented regarding the advertising of agendas, especially concerning the office move. Mrs Webster confirmed that all Full Council agendas are displayed in all noticeboards owned by the council and anything concerning the office move has also been advertised in a similar way. Committee Meeting Agendas are displayed at their relevant centres and in the noticeboard outside of the Town Council Office.

F.181/19-20 To Note the following Accounts Paid by means of **electronic banking and **Debit Card Payment** for £500.00 or over prior to the publication of the Agenda.**

Biddle – KCC	£540.00	BACS	<i>Repairs & Maintenance</i>
Matt Hale – R&A	£540.00	BACS	<i>Minute Ref: R.107(b)/19-20 Nature Reserve</i>

Noted

F.182/19-20 To Note the following Accounts Paid by **cheque prior to the Publication of the Agenda for £500.00 or over.**

None

F.183/19-20 To Approve the following Accounts Paid, for Payment and any other Accounts Received since Publication of the Agenda for £500.00 or over.

The Clerk asked for the following payments to be approved:

M&D Property Services – QCC/KCC/WSC/KSP/QTC/R&A	4486.60	BACS	<i>Groundsman and Handyman contract</i>
HMRC – Tax & NI - QTC	£2330.59	BACS	<i>Tax & NI</i>
Wicksteed Leisure – R&A	£12599.68	BACS	<i>Bristol Road Rec new equipment – Minute Ref: R.092/19-20</i>
Intocleaning – QTC	£928.90	BACS	<i>Staff Salary Cleaning costs</i>
Bank Transfer - QTC	£50000	Transfer	<i>Precept into general account</i>
Petty Cash – QTC	£100.00	005727	<i>Petty Cash</i>

Cllr Lee **PROPOSED** to approve those payments as read out by the Clerk.
Seconded: Cllr Williams: Vote: Unanimous: **So resolved**

F.184/19-20

Accounts/Budget Progress 2019/20

- Signing of Bank Reconciliations for January 2020
- Overview of expenditure by means of Summary of Receipt and Payments
- Stats on Income generated from Hiring of Community Centres and Sports Centres

Cllr Smith **PROPOSED** the accounts for January 2020, including the Summary of Receipts and Payments be approved.

Seconded: Cllr Hughes: Vote: 4 for, 1 abstain: **So resolved**

F.185/19-20

To consider and agree expenditure not exceeding £550.00 for Iain Selkirk FCA to conduct annual independent audit for 2019/20.

Cllr Smith **PROPOSED** to approve the above expenditure and for Iain Selkirk FCA to conduct the annual independent audit for Quedgeley Town Council

Seconded: Cllr Pearce: Vote: Unanimous: **So resolved**

F.186/19-20

BUDGET – To consider and agree draft Precept Figure of £249793.38 for 2020/2021. *budget proposal attached*

The Clerk confirmed that all members had been sent the draft budget proposal with the agenda in advance of the meeting. The Clerk worked through each budget heading to ensure members were aware of how the new figures had been achieved. One amendment was put forward to move £2000 from QTC Daily Running Costs to QTC Audit & Legal Fees. The Clerk confirmed that in agreeing to this precept figure, there would once again be no increase to the average Band D Taxpayer as the amount to pay remains the same as 2019/20.

Cllr Hughes queried the budget proposal sheet showing 2% increase for council tax for Kingsway Sports Pavilion. The Clerk confirmed that this was a typing error and confirmed the actual figure put forward includes a 6% increase.

Cllr Williams advised that he was hopeful that under the new review for business rates in Gloucester, there could potentially be up to a 50% decrease in business rates which could affect the council when moving offices.

Cllr Smith advised that one query which had come from the Saturday Surgery was that of the final payment of 2/3 council's long-term loans and why could this not be used to reduce the precept. Members agreed that the council needs to move forward and reducing the precept would not benefit the community as the council would be unable deliver or indeed improve upon services.

All members agreed there was no appetite in which to increase the precept.

Cllr Smith **PROPOSED** to agree the precept figure of £249793.38 for 2020/21.

Seconded: Cllr Williams: Vote: Unanimous: **So resolved.**

The Clerk confirmed that this matter would now be referred to Full Council for a formal resolution to be made.

F.187/19-20

Items from Community Buildings Committee:

In the absence of Cllr Mrs McAllan, Cllr Smith advised that the only matter outstanding is that of the fallen down fences at the rear of those properties backing onto the Quedgeley Community Centre.

The Clerk advised that having viewed the Title Deeds for 2 properties, there was no indication as to who owned the fence. On this basis, the council are in the process of obtaining quotes to erect the fence with the suggestion that both parties meet the

costs halfway. Cllr Hughes advised that those residents affected could also check their deeds. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would suggest this to those residents.

F.188/19-20 Items from Recreation & Amenities Committee:

Next meeting due on Wednesday 5th February.
The next event being planned is the Easter Egg Hunt.

F.189/19-20 Items from Planning & Development Committee:

Cllr Williams advised that the Planning Committee are currently reviewing the Gloucester City Local Plan as the deadline for comments is 14th February 2020. Extra meetings have been put in place to enable the committee to reach this target. He was hopeful that the target would be complete this Thursday (6th February).

Cllr Pearce advised that the new Lidl appears to be making good progress.

Cllr Williams advised that the committee are questioning the Air Pollution results in Quedgeley as being well within the legal limits, as per the local plan. The results were taken from 2 areas, each well away from main roads and not subject to normal air pollution.

Cllr Lee reported that Hardwicke Parish Clerk, Kevin Lee had attended the last meeting to talk about the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

F.190/19-20 Further Business for Referral:

Cllr Smith asked for the matter of replacing Quedgeley News to be deferred to Full Council.

Budget 2020/21 to be referred to Full Council for formal resolution.

F.191/19-20 Date of Next Meeting – 02/03/2020 – Quedgeley Community Centre

Meeting Closed 8.10pm.