

## LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 11 March 2020

**Cllrs Present:-** Geoff Patmore (Chair); Douglas Bradley, James Butcher and Danny Jackson.

**Officer:-** Helen Plant, Clerk.

**48. Apologies**

Apologies had been received and, with the reasons outlined, were accepted from Cllr Robin Monk and Emma Purnell.

**49. Declaration of Substitute Members**

None.

**50. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**51. Public Forum/Questions**

None.

**52. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 15 January 2020**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved.

**53. Accounts for payment**

**53.1 January Expenditure**

Committee **RESOLVED** that the following amounts be paid:-

- i. January Current A/C expenditure in the sum of £41,256.00
- ii. January Clerks Payment A/C expenditure in the sum of £7.30

**53.2 February Expenditure**

Committee **RESOLVED** that the following amounts be paid:-

- i. February Current A/C expenditure in the sum of £32,659.97
- ii. February Clerks Payment A/C expenditure in the sum of £6.50

**54. Approval of Cash Balances & Investments**

It was **RESOLVED** that the cash balances and investments of the Council totalling £496,773.64 as at 29 February 2020 was a true record.

**55. Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading**

**Resolved** – (a) That the following requests from the Clerk be approved:-

- i. for £1,000 of spare funds within Recreation Grounds be vired to Beaches, Foreshores and Car Parks to enable the start of the Beach Green replacement perimeter fencing works.
- ii. for the remaining balance of Regeneration Projects be accrued over to the 2020/21 budget to bolster the budget heading in anticipation of a prospective project.

(b) That an explanation as to why the Flat Rent income is not as much as forecasted be provided to the next Committee meeting.

## **56. Clerk's Report**

### **56.1 Installation of Solar Panels to the Parish Hall**

Following the outcome of the structural survey on the Parish Hall roof areas, it was confirmed that the solar panels scheme had been installed on both sections of the raised roof area above the Jubilee Hall. Consequently, the Parish Hall had been running with an element of renewable electricity since the 12 February 2020. An electricity bill comparison would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

An application to receive payment in respect of any unused electricity being exported to the national grid through the smart export guarantee was now being made to the existing electricity provider, Eon, but the tariff it was not yet known.

Members views were now sought as to whether to sign up to Empower Energy's maintenance plan at a cost of £450 per annum. This provided an annual panel clean, electrical testing, panel and mounting inspections, reactive and proactive maintenance and a system efficiency report.

**Resolved** – That the Council signs up to Empower Energy's maintenance plan at a cost of £450 per annum.

### **56.2 Consideration to change Banking Arrangements**

Members were reminded that the Council had, for many years, used HSBC for its banking arrangements, but since the decision by most banks to reduce their visibility on the high street and change in general banking practices, it was becoming harder to have simple requests actioned within reasonable timescales. This was especially pertinent when a change to the signatories was required.

It was noted that local councils remained constraint by legislation in that two signatories were required on cheques and was limited as to how much online banking could be done.

With that in mind, and following a recent recommendation from the SLCC, it was suggested that the Council moved to the Unity Trust Bank.

It was confirmed that the bank charges between the Unity Trust Bank and HSBC were comparable.

**Resolved** – That it be recommended to full Council that the Council's banking arrangements be switched to the Unity Trust Bank.

### **56.3 Green Room Leak**

It was confirmed that the work to repair the leak in the underfloor heating pipe in the Green Room was due to be carried out mid-April.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.