

LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 7.30pm

CLLrs Present:- Geoff Patmore (Chair); Carol Albury, Robin Monk and Gina Scotting.

Ex-officio:- Cllr Gloria Eveleigh.

Officer:- Helen Plant, Clerk.

43. Apologies

Apologies had been received, and with the reason outlined, were accepted from Cllrs Clive Burghard and Jean Turner.

44. Declaration of Substitute Members

None.

45. Declarations of Interest

None.

46. Public Forum/Questions

None.

47. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 16 January 2019

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

48. Accounts for payment

48.1 January Expenditure

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

- i. January Current A/C expenditure in the sum of £44,430.74
- ii. January Clerks Payment A/C expenditure in the sum of £6.18

48.2 February Expenditure

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

- i. February Current A/C expenditure in the sum of £26,661.43
- ii. February Clerks Payment A/C expenditure in the sum of £5.50

49. Cash Balances & Investments

It was **RESOLVED** that the cash balances and investments of the Council totalling £377,089.31 as at the 28 February 2019 was a true record.

50. Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading

Resolved – That the information be noted.

51. Clerk's Report

51.1 Unpaid Beach Green Hire Fee – Charles Chipperfield Circus – Update

Pursuant to Committee Minute 42.4/Jan/19, it was confirmed that a formal letter of claim had been duly sent as a start of proceedings to recover the debt from Charles Chipperfield Circus. The deadline for a response was 5 March 2019 and it was confirmed that no form of

reply had been received. Members were therefore asked whether the unpaid hire fee should be pursued through the small claims court at a cost of £455.

It was noted that the company's accountant had stressed that there were no funds or assets available. Members considered the Parish Council's claim would be overlooked in favour of more prominent creditors such as HMRC. Furthermore, as the Parish Council had not had to pay any costs associated with the Circus's hire of Beach Green, but just suffered a loss of income, it was agreed that no further action should be taken.

Resolved – That no further action be taken to recover the debt outstanding by Charles Chipperfield Circus from the hire of Beach Green.

51.2 Parish Hall Defibrillator update

Pursuant to Committee Minute 42.5/Jan/19, it was confirmed that from the £1,000 donated by the Parish Council, the Lancing and Sompting Lions had been able to purchase a defibrillator that had now been fitted to the exterior of the Parish Hall, sited to the east side of the North Wing and had also contributed towards the cost of one that had been fitted to the Lions Community Hall in Roberts Road. Both would be operational once they had been recorded on the relevant register.

A press release in conjunction with the Lancing and Sompting Lions would be made at the appropriate time.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

51.3 Beachside Montessori Nursery – request to lengthen lease

It was reported that while the Nursery's current lease did not expire until 31 August 2022, they had asked to increase it to ten-years, i.e. until 31 August 2027. They were confident that the business would continue to grow and an extension to the lease would give them peace of mind that they could remain at the Parish Hall.

Resolved – That it be recommended to full Council that The Beachside Montessori Nursery lease be extended to ten-years, with a clause included that the Council must give the tenant no less than six-month's notice to terminate the agreement and includes an annual rent review.

51.4 Community Cinema

The Cinema's income and expenditure was circulated for Members' information and future film choices needed to be approved.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted.

(b) That the following film choices be approved:-

- Johnny English Strikes Again;
- Stan and Ollie;
- The Favourite;
- Mary Poppins Returns;
- The Man Who Invented Christmas.

51.5 Electric Storm Youth – Room Lease Proposal

Members were reminded that Electric Storm Youth had been renting Room B in the Parish Hall North Wing since August 2017 at an amount of £2,160 per annum (£180 per month).

However, a proposal had been received for ESY to move into Room D, the North Wing upstairs room, to allow ESY to enhance their services, including mental health services and increased drop-in sessions for local young people.

While ESY's proposal was to hire the room at an amount of £3,600 per annum, this amount was less than the 2017 market value of £5,700 per annum. However, it was highlighted that the room had not been of interest to potential users and had only been used to store Adur Voluntary Action belongings since the closure of the AVA shop on North Road in June 2017 and given free of charge as this Council's support to that organisation.

Notwithstanding, the proposal would provide an increase in annual revenue of £1,440 from ESY and it was considered that Room B could be re-rented quite quickly providing the existing amount of £2,160 per annum.

Members were aware that ESY were a local charity that did a lot of good work with young people from Lancing and provided support and partnered with the Parish Council on a number of occasions, including events for young people such as the successful Skatejam last August. Members were happy to agree to the proposal as a gesture of goodwill and to continue supporting ESY's good work.

Resolved – That the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommends to full Council that Electric Storm Youth be permitted to rent North Wing Room D at an amount of £3,600 per annum (£300 per calendar month).

51.6 Refill Lancing (water refill campaign)

Refill was an award winning campaign to prevent plastic pollution at source by making it easier to reuse and refill bottles instead of buying new ones. It aimed to disrupt the current social norm of the need to buy bottled water when 'drinking on the go' and make it normal and easy for people to carry reusable bottles and refill for free when out and about. A simple sticker on premises showed where bottles could be refilled for free and an associated App of locations was also available.

Members were advised that the scheme had already gone live in Worthing and was due to be launched in Shoreham on 19 March 2019. Refill Lancing was being championed by Keep Lancing Lovely and the Committee's support for the campaign was sought.

Resolved – That the Committee supports the Refill campaign and allows the Parish Hall to become a Refill station.

The meeting closed at 7.51pm.