



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.15PM.

Membership: Councillors G. Bonner, S. Bowman, L. Melton, J. Noades, G. Waite, D. Wallace & Mrs J. Danagher.

Present: Councillors G. Waite, S. Bowman, Mrs J. Danagher, D. Wallace & L. Melton.

Officer in attendance: Jill Jones (Town Clerk) & A. Georgiou (Admin Officer)

162. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies from Councillors J. Noades & G. Bonner.

163. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NOTICE OF ANY DISPENSATIONS GRANTED.

No declarations.

164. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (INFORMATION ONLY).

Nothing to report that will not be discussed in the meeting.

165. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH JULY 2024.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes are a true record, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

166. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

Councillor Wallace stated that it had recently been brought to his attention that there is a lack of dropped kerbs for crossing Aspenden Road from Fairfield. The Town Clerk agreed to contact Councillor Jeff Jones to discuss.

It was noted a zoom meeting has been scheduled to discuss phase two of the Active Travel Fund (ATF) scheme. The meeting has been restricted for only the Mayor and Deputy-Mayor to attend from Buntingford Town Council. The scheme will go to public consultation.

It was noted that bollards at the bottom of the High Street (southern end) will be taken out to fill in gaps further up the High Street, newer model bollards will replace the ones taken out at the bottom of the High Street.

It was also noted that despite some doubts as to whether it would happen, the Herts County Council scheme for improvements at Church Street is still going ahead.

It was noted that the piece of land at River Green that was thought to be common land, is in fact not common land, but belongs to Highways. There is common land at River Green, but it is not the triangle that everyone thought was. It was suggested that Councillor Jones may be able to get some work done on this piece of land through his locality budget.

It was reported that Aspenden Road has been re-surfaced.

It was also reported that Neale Drive is progressing.

167. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE MANOR HOUSE.

It was reported that work has started on the upstairs ladies toilet.

The gutters have been cleaned.

It was noted that the ivy on the wall has been cut at the bottom in the hope that it will die off.

The canopy roof outside the front door will be done once the ladies toilet has been completed.

168. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE.

It was reported that Councillor Waite and A. Georgiou recently met with an East Herts officer in

charge of the prosperity funding for energy saving grants. The officer suggested infrared heaters would be beneficial for the building. Councillor Waite is meeting a contractor to discuss the potential on Tuesday.

The Bramble Hill Family Centre is currently leased to Herts County Council (HCC) and sub-leased to Bramble Hill. The sub-lease is up for renewal and HCC have requested to make the same arrangements with no changes.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council allow Herts County Council to continue to sub-lease an area of the Seth Ward Community Centre building to Bramble Hill Family Services.

It was reported that the ABC Committee recently received a £20,000 National Lottery grant for a new electric screen and acoustic treatment.

169. TO CONSIDER ANY GRANT REQUESTS RECEIVED INCLUDING REQUEST FROM CABEH FOR FURTHER SUPPORT WITH OFFICE RENTAL.

A grant request for use of the MUGA had been received from the group that will be running the new youth club in Buntingford, however rather than request for free use of the MUGA it was better to apply for the cost of hire and pay for the usage.

The MUGA will be used by the group on Friday nights as part of the new youth club to take place in the Pavilion.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council grant £735 To Sporting Inspiration CIC for use of the MUGA.

A grant request had been submitted by Citizens Advice Bureau East Herts (CABEH) for rent relief at The Manor House.

It was stated that Citizens Advice provide a very good service, however BTC already give £4,000 per year towards the rent. It was noted that this sum was significantly more than grants given by the other towns in the district.

It was noted that the Council have already given £4,000 this year, it was suggested that 5% be added to this for inflation. It was also suggested that the rent will go up 3% next financial year.

It was suggested that if CABEH are truly in financial difficulty it needs to assess how it works.

After some discussion, it was suggested that no extra grant is given this financial year, but it will be reviewed next year.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council refuse a further grant to CABEH this financial year, to be reviewed next year.

170. TO CONSIDER CURRENT CONTRACT FOR PHOTOCOPIER LEASE.

The current contract is up for renewal.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council renews the current contract with no change with the current copier.

Meeting closed 20:05

Next meeting: Thursday 10th October 2024 7.15pm at The Manor House.