



**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 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 & D. Wallace.

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

**277. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies from Councillors G. Bonner, J. Danagher & J. Noades.

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

No declarations.

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

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

**280. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 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.**

**281. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.**

It was reported that the outcome of the ATF phase two consultation has not been released yet.

It was noted that repair work to the High Street is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

The Church Street work funded by County Councillor Jones' locality budget is due to start on 26<sup>th</sup> November, there was concern the work will not be completed before the late-night shopping event on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Councillor Wallace suggested to Councillor Jones that if they were not 100% certain the work would be completed by then; it should not start on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

It was reported that Highways will soon repair and paint some of the railings by the river, they are to be painted black.

Some months ago, Council staff and Councillor Wallace attended a LANTRA course for traffic management at community events. One of the requirements for road closures noted was to have advance road closure warning signs that must be put out 2 weeks before the closure date. The Council do not currently have these signs. It was suggested that the Council purchase two of these signs. It was noted that these are roughly £100 each.

The Clerk reported that there was £1,900 in the Town Promotion budget.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That this Council purchase two advance road closure notice signs, to be funded from Town Promotion.**

**282. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE MANOR HOUSE.**

It was reported that the floodlights have been installed at the front of the Manor House, however it was suggested that the floodlights should be moved as they currently cast a shadow on half the carpark due to the parapet. The Clerk agreed to speak with the contractor that installed the lights to see what can be done. It was suggested that the lights should either be raised, or ideally installed at the front of the parapet.

It was reported that the work to resolve the damp issue in F2 has been completed, the scaffolding is due to come down soon.

**283. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

There is lots of work ongoing with regards to finding funding for energy efficiency projects at the centre. The Clerk noted that there is roughly £41,000 in S106 funding available. It is hoped that projects can be funded from SPF and S106 funds. More quotes are needed before the S106 application can be put in.

It was suggested that a sit down is needed to go through the projects and funding.

The Clerk reported that Herts Lynx is soon to be managed directly by the County Council. The County Council has requested that the community centre is still used for changeover and driver facilities for 2-3 vehicles. The Clerk also stated that the County Council have suggested having quarterly meetings with the Town Council to discuss any issues. Council were happy to agree.

It was reported that the Environmental Agency are currently installing a borehole on the grounds.

**284. TO CONSIDER ANY GRANT REQUESTS RECEIVED INCLUDING HOME START ROYSTON.**

Home Start had requested a contribution towards the £1184 needed for the hire cost of five sessions at the Scout Hut.

The sessions are for vulnerable families to learn life skills.

The Clerk reported that there was £5,700 in the grant budget.

It was suggested that the Council fund three sessions which would be roughly £710.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

**RESOLVED**

**That this Council grant £750 to Home Start for the hire cost of the Scout Hut.**

It was noted that the Council are awaiting a report from Buntingford Town Football Club following the firework display. It was agreed that Council will receive 50% of the profit which will help fund the event in future years.

It was noted that the event was very well attended this year.

The Clerk agreed to email the football club requesting an update on their financial situation.

**285. FIRST CONSIDERATION OF 2025/2026 BUDGET.**

It was asked what "agency services" was, it was explained that this was the payment received from East Herts for Layston Court Gardens maintenance.

It was noted that the Council are no longer part funding a PCSO.

It was suggested that the budget will change, this is just a first draft and at the moment it represents a 1.7% increase on Band D.

**286. TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO EHDC CONSULTATION ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS.**

It was noted that a community governance boundary review will only be done if necessary.

The current proposal is to ward the town at District level, meaning each District Councillor will have their own ward. East Herts want to hear the Town Council's thoughts.

It was suggested that this proposal is a reflection of the town growing, however there was a view that the current arrangement works fine.

Council agreed that at present the way the town operates is efficient and more beneficial to residents than warding would be, at both district and town level.

**287. TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO EHDC REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES.**

East Herts believe that using the hall at the community centre causes confusion.

It was argued that the room size is not a problem, but the way it is currently arranged for voting causes an issue.

Council felt it unnecessary to use three rooms at the Community Centre and felt that the hall would be big enough if it was organised more efficiently.

It was suggested that there would be more confusion if people had to vote in different locations.

Council felt that it knew what would work best at the centre, and was happy to liaise with officers to discuss ideas.

**Meeting closed 20:13**

**Next meeting: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 7.15pm at The Manor House.**