

FINANCE, ASSET & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Finance, Asset & Resources Committee held
on 21st June 2021 at 10.30am.

PRESENT: Councillors: Cllr G Hutchinson (Chair), G Elner,
P Goulbourne, A Wignall, P Jones

Town Clerk and RFO: Jo Butterworth
Deputy Clerk & Deputy RFO Jean Hynes

FAR-06/21/01 **To elect Chair for 2021/2022.**

It was moved by Cllr P Goulbourne, seconded by Cllr G Elner, and

RESOLVED - that Cllr G Hutchinson be elected Chair for the
2021/22 municipal year.

FAR 06/21/02 **To elect Vice Chair for 2021/2022.**

It was moved by Cllr G Elner, seconded by Cllr P Goulbourne, and

RESOLVED - that Cllr P Jones be elected Vice Chair for the
2021/22 municipal year.

To Receive Apologies and Reason for Absence

RESOLVED – that the apologies received from Cllr M Hancock due to work
commitments and Cllr T Hunter due to family commitments be approved.

FAR 06/21/03 **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests in Items on the Agenda**

None.

FAR 06/21/04 **Grant Dispensations**

None received.

FAR 06/21/05 **Minutes**

It was moved by Cllr P Goulbourne, seconded by Cllr A Wignall and

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 be
approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

FAR 06/21/06 **Town Hall Spotlights/St John's Day.**

The clerk reported that this matter was passed over from full council to investigate and look at quotes for green covers for St Johns day, whilst making enquires it transpired that the lights were not LED Town Clerk has received a quote of £61.00 plus VAT to upgrade the lights, £36.00 plus vat for the green covers and £38.00 plus VAT for labour totalling £135.00 plus VAT and

It was moved by Cllr P Goulbourne, seconded by Cllr G Hutchinson and

RESOLVED: to accept the quotation to upgrade the lights to LED and supply green covers.

FAR 06/21/07 **Community Policing Post.**

Town Clerk asked council to consider a charge to West Mercia Police for providing a community policing post at Ellesmere Town Hall. A monthly charge of £100 was recommended and,

It was moved by Cllr P Goulbourne, seconded by Cllr A Wignall and

RESOLVED: to have an agreement drawn up between Ellesmere Town Council and West Mercia Police and arrange a monthly invoice to West Mercia Police of £100.00

FAR 06/21/08 **VAT advice in relation to building works at Ellesmere Town Hall.**

Town Clerk reported that the VAT advice has been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Town Clerk stated that she is unable to make any recommendations at this stage as both Town Clerk and the Deputy Clerk need to revisit the original figures that were submitted and then come back to council once the calculation has been carried out.

Noted.

FAR 06/21/09 **Clerk's Laptop.**

Due to the Town Clerk requiring a new laptop, three quotes had been sourced:

- Dell Latitude Ref14 3400 £649 + VAT
- Dell Latitude Ref15 3510 £699 + VAT
- Dell Latitude Ref15 3510 £749 + VAT

It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr G Elner and

RESOLVED: to approve the quote for Dell Latitude Ref14 3400 £649 + VAT

FAR 06/21/10 **Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Act 2021**

Town Clerk informed council that since the introduction of Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Act 2021 the Town Hall was entitled to a refund on the last two years and due to this Shropshire Council have refunded £3193.60.

Noted.

FAR 06/21/11 **800th Anniversary Market Charter Celebration Funding.**

A request has been received to fund the Market Charter Celebrations to be held on 10th July 2021 for their running costs with a proposal of £500.

It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr G Elner and

RESOLVED: to award £500 toward the Market Charter Celebrations.

FAR 06/21/12 **Sourcing Grant Funding.**

Cllr P Jones had previously suggested looking into subscribing to Grants Online for future funding opportunities. Cllr Jones is aware that some sites are free but wondered if by subscribing there may be funding opportunities that are not accessible via the free sites. Upon investigation Grants Online charge an annual subscription of £99 + VAT for a single user. Town Clerk pointed out that NALC send out monthly bulletins of available grants. Shropshire Council subscribe to idox at a cost of £4k per year. Corrie Davis is looking into the possibility of sending us a link allowing us to access. The Deputy Clerk is aware that funding can be found without obtaining subscriptions and that sometimes it is knowing where to look and recommend to council that the way forward is to identify a project and then search for the relevant funding.

Cllr Hutchinson suggested that on the annual town walk future projects should be identified, in addition Town Clerk stressed the need to show that they have engaged with the community when going for any grant funding.

Town Clerk also mentioned that as a lot of the funding requires match funding and that there is a need to set aside a contingency for this and it was suggested to put aside the refund received from Shropshire Council for rate relief and name it Future Project fund.

Cllr Jones felt that whilst he accepted there are sites that do not require subscriptions but, paying a subscription could still identify funding that free sites have no knowledge of. Cllr P Jones also requested that grant fund be included on a future agenda.

RESOLVED: to RECOMMEND to council that set up a fund of £3193.60 for match funding of future projects.

FAR 06/21/13 **Ellesmere Swimming Pool.**

Town Clerk stated that council have no ownership as Ellesmere Primary School own it and the Titans of Ellesmere College have a rental agreement in place so the Town Council's hands are tied on what can be done, she suggested to Cllr A Wignall that contact should be made to the Academy to see if they could possibly offer a few hours of public swimming. Actions for Cllr Wignall feedback back and ask to advertise the venue more and better.

Noted.

FAR 06/21/14 **Cemetery Lodge**

Town Clerk reported that the loss adjuster has asked a quote could be obtained to dig down and expose the main drain to identify if there is accidental damage to the drain to enable us to go through our insurance. An independent company went out to the property to carry out a survey as the original survey carried out by ANL Drains did not go far enough down and Severn Trent who carried out a survey which they have not shared as their angle was that it was not their fault. The results of the independent survey have come back stating that there was a substantial blockage and a possible joint displacement collapse on the road. The Clerk did feel that this is a Severn Trent issue, and is in the process of contacting them to ascertain what course of action we should take. If we can show that the damage was caused by the blockage and the partial collapse of the drain, then we can claim accidental damage through the insurance otherwise it will be classed as wear and tear, and we are not covered for that.

Noted.

FAR 06/21/15 **Ellesmere Town Hall Toilets.**

A quote of £2,000 to repair damage caused by a recent leak was received from the contractor who carried out the original work in 2020. A quote of £500 was also received and awarded the contract and when works began and the paint was stripped the original plaster came away with it.

Cllr P Goulbourne reported that together with Cllr G Hutchinson they had met with the original contractor who carried out the refurbishment in 2020. It transpired that the spec was to remove the old plaster and redo, but it was only skimmed.

Town Clerk also reported that daily checks are now being carried out.

RESOLVED: to go out to other builders for fresh quotes.

FAR 06/21/16 **Ellesmere Youth Café Project.**

Town Clerk reported that TNS have successfully applied to Tesco's for funding of £1000 to enable them to continue with the Youth Café. They have also applied to Co-op for some funding to help them carry on into the next financial year.

The Clerk also reported that on week 2 the attendance was up by 70% with activities such as archery, boxing, dodge ball, computers and singing being provided. The ages that have attended so far are 10 -11 but, they are hoping to attract more 14-15-year-olds.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to liaise with Gill Jones, TNS to ask if they could do a press release on the success of the project so far.

The meeting closed at 19.58pm

Chair:

Date: