

## **CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **EXTRAORDINARY FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held virtually via Zoom on 27 January 2021 at 6.00pm.

**Present** Cllr K Small (Chair)  
Cllr M Lucas (Vice-chair)  
Cllr J Ballman  
Cllr R Ballman  
Cllr P Exell  
Cllr S Exell  
Cllr S Henderson

**Officers** A Reeves (Clerk/RFO)  
A Briggs (Estates Manager)  
A Cripps (Libraries Manager)  
J Smart (Head of Finance & Governance)

**Also Present** Cllr J Yeowell  
Cllr D Patey  
Cllr S Thompson  
Cllr D Montaut

**Public** None

*Due to some technical difficulties the meeting started at 6.10pm.*

*Members held a one-minute silence in honour of Holocaust Memorial Day and to remember the 100,000 people who had lost their lives to Covid-19.*

**424** **Apologies**  
No apologies were received.

*The Chair welcomed all non-members of the committee to the meeting and invited them to contribute to the debate within the meeting.*

*The Chair explained the process for making recommendations to the Full Council meeting later this evening.*

**425** **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**  
Cllr J Ballman declared that he is a Trustee of the Hreod Burna Urban Forest and member of the RSPB.

Cllr S Thompson declared that he is a Trustee of the Hreod Burna Urban Forest.

**426** **2020-21 Council Budget & Precept Setting**  
The Chair presented the draft 2020-21 budget, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

Members discussed the budget at length along with the merits of a 2% increase against the proposed 4.99%.

A 2% increase was proposed, with an amendment for a 4.99% increase moved by the Chair. The amendment was carried.

**RESOLVED** to recommend the budget as per Appendix A to be approved by Full Council. The recommended budget will result in a 4.99% (£6.43) increase per band D household per annum.

*Cllr D Montaut left the meeting.*

427

### **Capital Projects**

Members noted the report of the Head of Finance & Governance regarding the capital projects for 2021-22, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

The Chair presented the report and explained that the priority listing had been agreed with him and was proposed to be a starting point to debate the priority listing within this meeting.

There was some discussion around the Gorse Hill Community Centre and S106 monies assigned to the Gorse Hill area that could be used for this project.

**ACTION:** Head of Finance & Governance to produce a CIL and S106 update for the next available Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

Members debated the merits of the listed priorities.

Cllr D Patey requested that his Ward Allowance be used to fund the St Marks Rec (Green Flag) Gates project.

There was some discussion around the reaching communities grant bid currently in process and how the Council needed to show a commitment to youth services to secure the bid.

There was some discussion around the Pembroke Gardens Changing Room and Youth Hub project in conjunction with the Moredon Community Centre Youth Hub project and whether it would be wiser to spend funds on a larger development at Pembroke Gardens over the Moredon Community Centre as both are in the same ward.

**ACTION:** A report on the viability of the Pembroke Gardens Changing Room/Youth Hub and Moredon Community Centre Youth Hub to be reviewed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. To include options for investment via grant funding, public works loan or proceeds from the sale of existing assets.

During a discussion around the minibus project the Chair confirmed that revenue costs for a minibus had been included within the revenue budget for 2021-22.

**RESOLVED** to recommend the priority list as follows for approval at Full Council:

Priority	Capital Project to complete in 2021/22	Estimated Cost
1	Asset Survey - Major Cap Works	£40,000.00
2	Comm Ctr - General Repairs & Maintenance	£20,000.00
3	Changing Rooms - General Repairs & Maintenance	£15,000.00
4	Southbrook Garage & Fuel Tank	£2,000.00
5	Parish Minibus	£24,000.00
6	Sevenfields Outdoor Gym	£12,000.00
7	Grasscrete for Verges - Rodbourne Cheney	£20,000.00
8	Play Area - Pinetrees	£30,000.00
9	Moredon - Youth Hub (see resolution below)	£18,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£181,000.00</b>

**RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure of £2,000.00 from Cllr D Patey's Ward Allowance to complete the St Marks (Green Flag) Gates project.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that £18,000.00 from the capital project fund be ring fenced for a youth project within Moredon to be determined following the viability reports on Pembroke Gardens and Moredon Community Centre (see priority 9 above and R7 below).

The reserve project listing was debated by members. A motion to refer to the Christmas Lights – Shopping Areas project as Festive Lights was not carried.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend the reserve items priority list to Full Council as follows, the Gorse Hill Community Centre Exterior Improvements project being at the top of this list providing that it cannot be completed via the use of CIL, to be determined in the report to be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

Future Projects		
R1	Gorse Hill Community Centre Exterior Improvements	£30,000.00
R2	Community Planters Project	£10,000.00
R3	Christmas Lights - Shopping Areas	£22,000.00
R4	Southbrook Rec - Car Park	£55,000.00
R5	New Play Area - Barnum Court	£30,000.00
R6	St Marks Mini Golf	£50,000.00
R7	Pembroke Gardens - Changing Room/Youth (subject to report on Moredon Youth facility (see resolution above)	£40,000.00
R8	Moredon Community Centre - Fencing & Car Park	£14,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£251,000.00</b>

The Chair provided an explanation around the Moredon Sports Hub subsidy recommended at 2.9 within Appendix B, by ear marking £50,000.00 from the current year underspend to reduce the impact of the subsidy on the next three years revenue budgets.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council to adopt the report (Appendix B) with the amendments to the priority listing as above.

**428** **St Marks Rent Rebate**

Members noted the report of the Head of Finance & Governance (presented by the Libraries Manager), regarding the use of Covid-19 grant funding received to mitigate loss of income from the Community Tennis Association at St Marks Rec, a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

*Cllr Steve Thompson left the meeting.*

**RESOLVED** that £10,000.00 received as part of a Covid19 grant be transferred to the Central Swindon North Parish Community Leisure and Library Trust to compensate loss of earnings at St Marks Rec as detailed within Appendix C.

**429** **Central Swindon North Leisure and Library Trust Grant**

Members noted the report of the Head of Finance & Governance (presented by the Libraries Manager), regarding the 2020-21 grant to the Central Swindon North Leisure and Library Trust, a copy of which appears as Appendix D in the Minute Book.

**RESOLVED** that Committee makes the following recommendations to Full Council:

- a) Outstanding amounts from 2019/20, totalling £35,285.14 be written off as detailed in 2.3 of Appendix D, on the agreement that this amount will subsidise by a £5,000.00 reduction in the grant request for the current and next three financial years.
- b) The grant request of £51,957.79 for 2020/21 be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Finance & Staffing Committee

DRAFT