ENCLOSURE 12

K E N I L W O R T H T O W N C O U N C I L

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee

Commencing at 7.00 pm on Thursday 11 November 2021

PRESENT: Councillor R J Barry (Chair).

Councillors: A G Chalmers, M F Coker, S A Cooke, A M Dearing, J A Dearing, K S Dickson, A J Firth, G D Hyde, P J Jones, A W Milton, R J Spencer.

Town Clerk: Miss M S Field.
Deputy Town Clerk: Mr N Eaton.

Two members of the Public and one member of the press were present.

FGS.245 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

FGS.248	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor R J Barry	Allotment Holder
FGS.248	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor A M Dearing	Allotment Holder
FGS.248	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor J A Dearing	Allotment Holder
FGS.248	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor G D Hyde	Allotment Holder
FGS.248	Allotments – update on current position	Councillor P J Jones	Allotment Holder
FGS.256	Kenilworth Twinning Association Update	Councillor G D Hyde	Member KTA

Councillors K Dickson, A Dearing, J Dearing and A W Milton all made a Declaration of Interest in respect of any item that had a link to or association with Warwick District Council.

Councillor R Spencer made a Declaration of Interest in respect of any item that had a link to or association with Warwickshire County Council.

FGS.246 APOLOGIES

Councillors: P Austin, J Cooke, R Dickson, J Kennedy.

FGS.247 MINUTES

Members NOTED the Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee held on 30 September 2021. These were received and approved by the Town Council (KTC) on 23 October 2021.

INITIALS.....

MATTERS ARISING

FGS.248 ALLOTMENTS – UPDATE ON CURRENT POSITION

Members NOTED that legal matters remained in progress in relation to the transfer of the Allotment Land at Beehive Hill that is taking place from Warwick District Council to Kenilworth Town Council.

FGS.249 THE POUND

Members NOTED and agreed arrangements for the maintenance and upkeep of the Pound.

Friends of Abbey Fields (FOAF) can include The Pound in regular/ ad hoc litter picks. These currently occur once a month from April through to October. They will also include any cutting back (e.g. of the ivy) in working parties. FOAF are not able to take on any financial commitment in relation to the upkeep of The Pound and would need confirmation that they would not acquire any insurance liabilities. The Town Clerk will provide necessary documentation, including a copy of our Agreement with WDC which sets out the responsibilities.

FGS.250 CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor P Jones confirmed arrangements for the Christmas Illuminations Event on Friday 26 November. High Street lights will be switched on by Jeremy Wright MP and Councillor S Cooke, Deputy Town Mayor. The Warwick Road switch on will take place simultaneously by Councillor P Jones, Town Mayor, with the Town Clerk in attendance. A full range of entertainment is arranged for both locations.

Councillor M Coker confirmed arrangements for the Christmas Market (including free parking) Event on Saturday 11 December. All stalls have been taken. Jeremy Wright and the Town Mayor will take part in shop window competition judging. A range of exhibits and entertainment has been arranged. These include a selection of Christmas trees from the St Nicholas Church exhibition and a Town Advent Calendar. A Choir will perform and Father Christmas will be visiting.

Members NOTED these updates.

STANDING MATTERS

FGS.251 REVIEW OF BUDGET

Members reviewed the position regarding spending and budget after month seven of the financial year, having regard to published reports. The Chair pointed out that Working Group Chairs need to consider any budgetary needs for next year and submit this for consideration by Group Leaders on 24 November. He noted that the Communications budget was underspent and required specific consideration.

Members NOTED this update.

INITIALS.....

FGS.252 REVIEW OF GRANTS AWARDED 2020-2021

Members NOTED that no updates had been submitted.

FGS.253 INTERNAL AUDIT – REPORTS AND ACTION

Members NOTED that the Quarter 2 report has been received and shared with the Chair and Deputy Chair. All is in good order with no problems to address.

The Chair advised Members that our Internal Auditor, David Phillips was recently invited to attend an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle to receive his MBE, after being named in the Queen's New Year Honours in 2019. David has been recognised for his services to the Brain & Spine Foundation, raising over £142,000 for the charity whilst running over 500 full marathons.

FGS.254 GRIT BINS

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that no new requests for grit bins had been submitted.

In accordance with previous agreements, grit bins have recently installed at the following locations -

Redfern Avenue
Highfield Close
Fishponds Road

These have an initial partial filling of salt. Warwickshire County Council have been notified and have previously agreed that these will now be included on their list for routine filling in future. Members were reminded that the Town Council has a supply of bagged salt, available for use by residents. A reminder will be placed on the Town Council website and social media.

Members NOTED this update.

FGS.255 CEMETERY REPORT

Members NOTED the update that had been provided.

FGS.256 KENILWORTH TWINNING ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Councillor G Hyde presented the published update on arrangements to sign the formal documentation to twin with Roccalumera together with plans to update Kenilworth road signage.

Members NOTED this update.

With respect to road signage, Members felt that significant additional information was required. It was proposed, seconded and:

> RESOLVED that pursuant to twinning with Roccalumera, consideration of plans to update Kenilworth road signage be delegated to the Project Working Group who will bring forward a proposal.

INITIALS.....

NEW MATTERS

FGS.257 TECHNICAL BUDGET AND TIMESCALE FOR BUDGET SETTING

Members NOTED that the Technical Budget has been compiled and issued to the Group Leaders who will bring their proposals to the next meeting in December for discussion and agreement.

FGS.258 COP26 – FINANCE

Members NOTED that at COP26, major financiers around the world have pledged to invest $130tn to finance net zero by 2050,

The Chair proposed that this Committee supports this initiative by writing to HSBC and CCLA requesting that they commit to completely divesting from fossil fuel investments by the end of the financial year 2022/23.

After detailed consideration, Members felt a more rational process would be to ask for their divestment plans and then act as appropriate on any response.

Councillor Barry accepted this amendment. It was proposed , seconded and:

> RECOMMENDED that Kenilworth Town Council, having regard to COP26 initiatives and its investment of public money, writes to HSBC and CCLA asking them to state their plans for divesting from fossil fuel investments. The Town Council will then further consider any appropriate action.

FGS.259 NEXT MEETING

Members NOTED that the next scheduled meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee will take place on Thursday 16 December 2021, at 7pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.05 pm.

Signed …….……

Dated.…….…….....

INITIALS.....