

KENILWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee

Commencing at 7.00 pm on Thursday 15 December 2022

PRESENT: Councillor R J Barry (Chair).

Councillors: P Austin, M F Coker, J A Cooke, A M Dearing, J A Dearing, K S Dickson, R G Dickson, G D Hyde, P J Jones, A J Kennedy, S A Louden-Cooke, A W Milton, R J Spencer.

Town Clerk: Miss M S Field.

Deputy Town Clerk: Miss G Honey

Two members of the Public were present. One Member of the press was present.

The fire and safety brief was displayed on the screens prior to the commencement of the meeting.

FGS.340 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

FGS.344	Allotments – update on current position	Cllrs A Dearing, J Dearing, R Barry, P Jones & G Hyde	Allotment Holders
FGS.347	Twinning Association	Cllrs R Dickson, G Hyde, P Austin, A Dearing, P Jones, J Kennedy	Members
FGS.351	Application for CIL funding– Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	Cllrs R Barry, J Kennedy, P Jones, G Hyde, R Dickson, K Dickson	Members of WWT
FGS.351	Application for CIL funding– Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	Cllrs R Barry, J Kennedy, P Austin, G Hyde, A Dearing, R Dickson, K Dickson	Members of FOAF
FGS.353	Application for Grant funding – Kenilworth over 30s Swimming Club	Cllr A Dearing, J Dearing, R Barry	Applicant Known
FGS.356/357	Application for Grant Funding-The Kenilworth Centre	Cllr R Dickson	Chair of Trustees – tKC – left meeting

FGS.356/357	Application for Grant Funding-The Kenilworth Centre	Cllr K Dickson	Husband is Chair of Trustees - tKC
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Councillors J A Cooke, A M Dearing, J A Dearing, K S Dickson, R G Dickson, A J Kennedy and A W Milton made a general declaration of personal interest in relation to any items regarding Warwick District Council.

Councillors J A Cooke and R J Spencer made a general declaration of personal interest in relation to any items regarding Warwickshire County Council.

FGS.341 APOLOGIES

Councillors: A Chalmers, A J Firth.

FGS.342 MINUTES

Members NOTED the Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee held on 29 September 2022. These were received and approved by the Town Council (KTC) on 20 October 2022.

MATTERS ARISING

FGS.343 CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2022 (FGS. 332)

Cllr M Coker reported that the Christmas Market had gone very well and thanks should go to the Deputy Mayor for standing in for the Mayor at short notice. Cllr R Barry added his thanks to those Members who helped on the Town Council stalls.

Cllr P Jones reported on the Light Switch On events, both had gone very well with some feedback reported to CJs concerning the lack of local voluntary organisation stalls. Cllr K Dickson clarified the response that voluntary organisations tended to be unable to cover the stalls for the length of the event but this can be considered in the future if there is enough uptake. Cllr P Jones canvassed Members' opinions on the date of next year's event at the High Street. After discussion Members unanimously favoured the date of 24 November 2023 which will be fed back to the Light Switch On committee.

Cllr S Loudon-Cooker confirmed the winners of the shop window competition with 'It's a Dogs World' taking first place from the public vote, and Aquarius Interiors and the RSPCA being runner's up.

Cllr R Dickson thanked Cllr R Spencer and the Deputy Clerk for their work in moving the St Nicholas Christmas Trees to the empty shop windows for display.

Members NOTED these updates.

FGS. 344 ALLOTMENTS – UPDATE ON CURRENT POSITION (FGS.130, 140, 248, 297, 320)

The Chair updated that WDC Legal have been in contact with the Clerk and report that they have now received full instruction to proceed with the specific type of

sublease being excluded from the pre-emption and overage provisions. They will endeavour to re-draft the documents and send them for our final approval prior to the Christmas break.

In anticipation of this, the WALC solicitor who originally provided advice to us has been instructed to act on our behalf and will take receipt of the documents when available, for final review. Once the transfer has then taken place, a new lease can be drawn up for KATA at which time a review of the rent should be undertaken.

Members NOTED this update.

STANDING MATTERS

FGS.345 REVIEW OF GRANTS AWARDED 2021-2022

The Chair advised that a report had been received from The Parenting Project which was shared with members.

Members NOTED this update.

FGS.346 INTERNAL AUDIT – REPORTS AND ACTION

The Chair reported that the Quarter 2 audit has taken place and the Internal Auditor's report was shared with the Chair and Vice-chair last month. There are no issues that have been raised and the Summary received was the accounts are in good shape and are accurate with no real problems.

Members NOTED this update and thanked Officers for their work.

FGS. 347 TWINNING

Cllr G Hyde reported that there was a Twinning Association meeting that evening and a visit due from the Mayor of Rocculamera in April 2023.

Members NOTED this update.

FGS. 348 CEMETERY

Cllr R Dickson presented his published report and advised the cemetery was open over Christmas and New year.

Members NOTED this update.

FGS.349 CIL WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Chair presented the published report and summarised the projects currently being funded by CIL. Cllr A Milton added Clarke's Avenue bridge was now due to be completed in March 2023 and the first meeting with the skatepark designer is due to take place on 22 December 2022. Two external CIL applications received will be considered later on in this meeting, one from Kenilworth School and the second from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

The Chair presented the projection of future CIL receipts and provided Members with a further handout. The Council currently hold £242,000 of unallocated CIL funds with just under a further £700,000 projected. This is less than originally anticipated and there are variable factors which could impact this.

Members NOTED this update.

NEW MATTERS

FGS. 350 APPLICATION FOR CIL FUNDING – GATEWAY TO KENILWORTH - CIL WORKING GROUP

Members considered all CIL applications before deciding upon their recommendations.

Members considered an internal Application for CIL Funding support in the sum of £62,750.00 for GATEWAY TO KENILWORTH.

A detailed discussion took place with Members unanimously being in favour of the application. There was concern expressed that this should be an issue being considered in the early stages of a development, not as a secondary thought following completion of the build. However, it was also acknowledged this was related to infrastructure and linked directly to what the CIL fund was there to support.

It was duly proposed, seconded and:

unanimously RECOMMENDED that the Gateway to Kenilworth Application for CIL funding support in the sum of £62,750.00 be referred to Town Council for approval.

FGS.351 APPLICATION FOR CIL FUNDING – WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Members considered an Application for CIL Funding support in the sum of £69,200.00 from WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST.

Detailed discussion took place concerning this application. It was generally favoured by all Members and considered a strong application in terms of its sound base. However, concern was raised on whether additional funding sources for the Trust were available and the current availability of CIL funds to the Council.

It was proposed and seconded that a recommendation be made to Town Council for CIL funding support in the sum of £69,200.00. An amendment was then proposed that we fund the first year of the project in the sum of £35,700.00 and invite the applicants to submit a second proposal for consideration in the future.

It was duly proposed, seconded and:

RECOMMENDED that the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust application for CIL funding support in the sum of £35,700 be referred to Town Council for approval.

FGS.352 APPLICATION FOR CIL FUNDING – KENILWORTH SCHOOL

Members considered an Application for CIL Funding support in the sum of £500,000 from KENILWORTH SCHOOL.

After lengthy discussions regarding the application, whilst Members were supportive, they raised concerns of the amount of the application and the significant shortfall in our available funds to award. It was agreed that discussions will take place with the District Council in order to establish a way forward and the school concerning some gaps in their application.

Members duly proposed, seconded and:

DEFERRED making a recommendation for CIL Funding support in the sum of £500,000 whilst further discussions took place with WDC and the school.

FGS.353 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING – KENILWORTH OVER 30s SWIMMING CLUB

Members considered an Application for Funding support in the sum of £1100.00 from KENILWORTH OVER 30s SWIMMING CLUB.

All submitted documentation and budgets were considered. There was support for the bid, and it was proposed, seconded and :

RESOLVED that the sum of £1100.00 be granted to KENILWORTH OVER 30s SWIMMING CLUB, from the Grants (Unspecified Allocation) budget.

FGS. 354 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING – ST JOHN’S TODDLER GROUP

Members considered an Application for Funding support in the sum of £470.34 from ST JOHN’S TODDLER GROUP.

All submitted documentation and budgets were considered. There was support for the bid, and it was proposed, seconded and :

RESOLVED that the sum of £470.34 be granted to ST JOHN’S TODDLER GROUP from the Grants (Unspecified Allocation) budget.

FGS.355 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING - PARENTING PROJECT

Members considered an Application for Funding support in the sum of £8,400.00 from PARENTING PROJECT.

All submitted documentation and budgets were considered. There was support for the bid, and it was proposed, seconded and :

RECOMMENDED that the sum of £8,400.00 be referred to Town Council for approval for the PARENTING PROJECT from the Grants (Unspecified Allocation) budget.

FGS.356 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING - THE KENILWORTH CENTRE

Members considered an Application for Funding support in the sum of £3000.00 from THE KENILWORTH CENTRE for their Friday night Youth Group.

All submitted documentation and budgets were considered. There was support for the bid, and it was proposed, seconded and :

RESOLVED that the sum of £3000.00 be granted to THE KENILWORTH CENTRE for the Youth Group work ,from the Grants (Unspecified Allocation) budget.

FGS.357 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING - THE KENILWORTH CENTRE

Members considered an Application for Funding support in the sum of £3000.00 from THE KENILWORTH CENTRE for emergency lighting.

All submitted documentation and budgets were considered. There was support for the bid, and it was proposed, seconded and :

RESOLVED that the sum of £3000.00 be granted to THE KENILWORTH CENTRE for Emergency Lighting, from the Grants (Unspecified Allocation) budget.

FGS.358 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING - WAVERLEY – CARING IN KENILWORTH

Members considered an Application for Funding support in the sum of £600.00 from WAVERLEY – CARING IN KENILWORTH

All submitted documentation and budgets were considered, and Members learned that this was part of a RUCIS bid. There was support for the request, and it was proposed, seconded and :

RESOLVED that the sum of £600.00 be granted to WAVERLEY – CARING IN KENILWORTH from the Grants (Unspecified Allocation) budget.

FGS.359 APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING - ARTS UPLIFT, COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Members considered an Application for Funding support in the sum of £2936.00 from ARTS UPLIFT, COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

All submitted documentation and budgets were considered. There was support for the bid, and it was proposed, seconded and :

RESOLVED that the sum of £2936.00 be granted to ARTS UPLIFT, COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY from the Grants (Unspecified Allocation) budget.

FGS. 360 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024

The Chair outlined published budget proposals and his financial reserves forecast, prepared following discussions with Group Leaders. These were considered in detail, discussing issues line by line where different options had been suggested.

Protracted debate took place in relation to the two options. Emphasis was placed on the current cost of living crisis and any savings that could be made. Members largely wished to take a cautious approach and keep budgets as low as possible, whilst acknowledging that inflation costs have unilaterally risen this year.

Members requested clarification regarding the Working Group Initiatives budget and options relating to income from castle passes.

Members proposed, seconded and:

DECIDED that their preferred options be incorporated into a final budget proposal for approval at the Town Council meeting on 12 January 2023.

Members proposed, seconded and:

RECOMMENDED the precept increase be set at 10% for the financial year 2023-2024 at £22.78 per household (Band D). The balance of funding for any adopted budget, beyond that provided by the precept, and other identified income, will be drawn from the earmarked and General reserves.

FGS.361 EVENTS TO MARK THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

Members DEFERRED their discussion of this topic as a result of the length of meeting time available. It was agreed this will be considered at next Town Council when the Town Centre Working Group will have also had the opportunity to meet and discuss possible event plans.

FGS.362 NEXT MEETING

Members NOTED that the next scheduled meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee will take place on Thursday 2 February 2023, at 7pm.

The meeting concluded at 9:48 pm.

Signed

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