**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE,**

**20th September Held at Uppingham Town Hall, commencing at 6.00pm**

**FGP124/23**  **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Present:** Sam Findlay (chair), Trevor Colbourne, Lindsay Cooper, Christine Edwards, Mark Shaw, Liz Clarke

Town Clerk Sharon Coe was also in attendance.

**Apologies:** Dave Ainslie.

**FGP125/23 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION** None

**FGP126/23**  **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

No public present

**FGP127/23 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ON**

**28th June 2023**

Proposed, Seconded– **Resolved unanimously**.

**FGP128/23 TO CONSIDER THE COUNTEROFFER FROM THE BOWLS CLUB REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF THE SAME.**

The counteroffer was discussed in full following the meeting held.

**RESOLUTION TO FULL COUNCIL (1)**

That the council should accept the counteroffer of £51,000 over 34 years to be repaid via an interest free loan. To protect future councils and responsibility to Uppingham residents we would wish to build in a 5-year review.

Proposed, seconded, and **Resolved unanimously.**

**FGP129/23 To consider the Month 5 up to date financial figures and consider initial precepting ideas for the upcoming budget preparation, to include the six-monthly IA dates as agreed.**

Some of the main points discussed.

An overview of the previous years was discussed.

An increase of 5% was suggested.

CIL monies were overviewed, the Clerk gave an up-to-date position.

The Clerk talked through an initial wish list she had put together.

Reserve levels were discussed.

A priority list is needed to align our needs to our precept setting. Council authorisation of payments was discussed, and a new system will be invoked which will involve all invoices being paid in the following month (10th), this will allow council to properly authorise all invoices before payment.

Dual authority has now been established at our Bank for security purposes.

The interim internal audit has now been booked in for late October.

**RESOLUTION TO FULL COUNCIL (2)**

To identify in order of priority the spending needed and what can be achieved this year and needs to be precepted next year.

Proposed, seconded, and **Resolved unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION TO FULL COUNCIL (3)**

The Clerk as RFO will set an initial budget and then bring back to the next F & GP for review at the next meeting.

Proposed, seconded, and **Resolved unanimously**.

**FG130/23 To consider the initial review on the charges for the Cemetery/Allotments/Town Hall Charges**

The Clerk presented each item. She had taken the opportunity of a rewrite of all rules and regulations incorporating best practices from research undertaken.

In view of charges, she suggested that we look to implement these increases on 1st April to coincide with the new financial year.

Allotments an increase to £30.00 for a full plot and £17.50 for a half plot.

Hall Hire an increase to £20.00 ph. for the hall and £12.50ph for the chamber.

Cemetery – this work had not yet been fully completed and will be brought back to the next meeting.

**RESOLUTION TO FULL COUNCIL (4)**

**That the rules and charges be accepted, charges to be effective from 1st April 2024, and reviewed annually.**

Proposed, seconded (5 for, 1 abs)

**FG131/23 TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON:**

* **Barclays complaint and the letter lodged with the Banking Ombudsman.**

The Clerk confirmed she had sent a letter and that the receipt had been confirmed. She was waiting for further updates regarding due processes.

* **Banking signatures processes and up to date position.**

The Clerk updated members on the fact that all accounts were now in the process of being changed.

* **Land owned by UTC (Bloors Land)**

The Solicitors were processing the contracts, and the work was ongoing.

**FG132/23 To consider the current position with regard to the Football Club Lease.**

A discussion was held regarding the up to date position from the recent meeting, the football club was going to incorporate a girls’/youth/under 8 and 9 team who would be able to use the pitch and make the club more inclusive. The lease would be up for renewal in 2025 and these preliminary talks were to aid discussions going forward as to a reasonable rent. A reduction could be involved but membership of the club could be increased so it may even out.

**RESOLUTION TO FULL COUNCIL (5)**

That ongoing negotiations take place regarding a possible concession, but we would want a 5 yearly review and market rates to apply. Proposed, seconded and **Resolved unanimously.**

**FG133/23 To consider the quotation for the urgent works required at the LR cemetery.**

Following a discussion, the Clerk will obtain further quotation for the hedge cutting as a comparison as a matter of urgency as this work needs to be done to allow further cremations to take place. The cremation plinthing will be added to the precept figures for 24/25

Proposed, seconded and resolved unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO FULL COUNCIL (6)**

That the clerk obtains a further quotation and is authorised to proceed as she sees fit.

**Meeting closed at 7.30pm**

**Signed ……………………………………………………………. Chairman of F & G P**

**Dated………………………………………………………….**