

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 7.00 pm at via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Councillors: A Thompson (Chairperson)
M Boon, L Burns (part), M Cholerton and M Peden.

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk, E Brown – Deputy Town Clerk

Also present: Public: 4

FC16/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

FC17/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 October 2020 were approved as a true record and would be signed by the Chairperson out of meeting.

FC18/20 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No new interests were declared.

Cllr Burns joined the meeting.

FC19/20 BUDGET EXPENDITURE AND PROJECTIONS

Attached to the agenda as Appendix I was the current year Budget and expenditure to the end of month 7. While most expenditure takes place in the second half of the year there was a significant underspend to date and owing to the ongoing uncertainty of restrictions it was not possible to calculate the projected expenditure to the end of March.

Members were aware that there have been difficulties accessing appropriate officers developing schemes or obtaining contractors and estimates during this time meaning that while the schemes would progress and there may still be some expenditure before March that cannot be guaranteed. It was suggested that this year Members assume that all Budget allocations will either be spent or committed and that under-spends for projects be carried forward to 2021-22 financial year. Actual under-spends from other budgets would accrue to balances as normal and be available to support the adjustment in the Property Base likely to equate to £8083.

RESOLVED that: the report be agreed with project allocations carried forward to 2021-22 where not fully spent in the current financial year.

FC20/20 3-YEAR PROJECT PLAN

Taking account of the budget expenditure and projections it was necessary to amend the 3-year Project Plan to take account of likely expenditure from allocations over the 3-year period and seek

to advance approved schemes. Expenditure in most cases would take place over 2 or 3 financial years as shown in Appendix II.

RESOLVED that: the revised project allocations set out in Appendix II be agreed.

FC21/20 – BUDGET PLANNING - DRAFT PROPOSALS

Considering the above reports, it was suggested that the next Budget for 2021/22 could remain similar to the present one with minor alterations to achieve an all-year-round enhanced service tailored to incorporate the desired enhancements in services with play area inspections and some dog control enforcement subject to agreement with the County Council.

Contractual matters would be considered at the January Council meeting but for the purpose of budget planning and recommendations the draft was attached at Appendix III for consideration. The contribution from balances would almost certainly not be required in the current financial year so was available for 2021/22 with other balances to cover the Property Base adjustment and there will be no need to increase the Precept.

RESOLVED that: Members agree the draft Budget for recommendation to the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 7.09pm

Signed by the Chairperson: Date:.....