

ST ANNE'S ON THE SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 15th December 2020, 6.00pm via the conferencing app Zoom

Present: Councillors C Little (Chairman), J Gardner, S Green, G Harrison, K Harrison, A Jacques, V Settle (from 6.14), S Trudgill and V Willder.

Officers Clerk Kevin Martin, CEM Sarah Dunn, RFO John Nightingale, TEPO Darrel Treece-Birch.

291/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

292/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

293/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2020 be agreed as a true record of the meeting, subject to one minor correction being made to minute reference 252/20. Voting 8 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

294/20 REVISED BUDGET 2020/21 AND DRAFT BUDGET 2021/22

Councillor G Harrison outlined the discussions that had taken place on the draft budget. It is anticipated that a zero-percentage budget increase will be proposed to Council in January for the 2021/22 financial year. The full budget working group meet on Wednesday 16th December 2021 to finalise matters.

295/20 COMMUNITY GRANTS BUDGET STRUCTURE 2021/22

The RFO presented a report proposing a restructure of the community grants for next year to cap expenditure and prevent rollover of unspent funds. It was also proposed to accommodate events such as the Brass Band concert series which are a regular annual event and fit within the Town Council support grant criteria.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the financial structure be agreed. Voting 8 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

296/20 NEW HOMES BONUS 2021/22

The Clerk explained that as much of the new housing development in Fylde takes place in St. Anne's, a request had been made to increase the contribution of 5% received by the Town Council but this had been declined by Fylde Council.

There is a possibility of some level of New Homes Bonus payment being available next year, but no further details are available at this time.

297/20 UPDATE FROM DUAL HATTED MEMBERS

Inner Promenade – residents have been in contact regarding overnight parking issues.

Tree planting is taking place in Wood Street to replace the mature trees that were recently felled near the redeveloped car park.

Phase 2 of the housing development at Heyhouses Lane now has its marketing suite open and building has begun on the affordable housing properties.

Noise nuisance – a recent incident involving an alarm going off for 5 days and causing considerable distress to a resident. Out of hours processes need to be reviewed for extreme situations. The Clerk was asked to write to Fylde Council seeking clarity on out of hours services provided by Fylde.

298/20 TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

[Councillor Settle joined the meeting at this point]

Councillor Trudgill outlined initiatives such as free parking and late-night opening that are being promoted by the group.

Councillor Little has distributed the minutes from the Working Group meeting.

Signage is needed at the multi storey car park in St George's Road and discussions are ongoing with the car park owner as part of their new management arrangements.

[Councillor Trudgill left the meeting at this point 6.21 pm]

A new Town Council working group has been suggested comprising Councillors Gardner, K Harrison and Little to continue the work of the Christmas Switch On group. This will be formally proposed at January's Council meeting.

The Clerk has formally asked Fylde BC that Cllr Karen Harrison be allowed to join the St Annes Subgroup of the Town Centre Working Group going forward.

299/20 ST ANNE'S ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Green reported on behalf of STEP that the Best Dressed Pet competition is being judged by the vet today and the Best Shop Window competition is being judged this week.

Approximately £1000 of the original £5k funding remains but as the grant relates to Covid economic recovery activities there is no issue with this being used to support these competitions.

Take up of the push for late night opening has been disappointing in St. Anne's but this may be an initiative that takes time to build in future years.

300/20 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk referred to the proposed review of parish boundaries announced by Fylde BC.

In terms of growth, St. Anne's, Westby with Plumpton and Brying with Warton are the three areas forecast to have the highest population increases.

Further information is awaited from Ian Curtis on the consultation process.

[Cllr Trudgill returned to the meeting at this point 6.41pm]

301/20 DOMES IN THE SQUARE

The Clerk wishes to formally approach Fylde Council to seek their views on a possible long-term lease for the Town Council to manage the Domes, Amphitheatre and Bandstand. There is no commitment being made at this stage, it is just a request.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the Clerk is authorised to approach Fylde Council about these three facilities.

Voting 8 for 0 against and 0 abstentions

302/20 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & SWITCH ON

Councillor K Harrison commended the group and the officers for the success of the activities including the Christmas themed shop window which has been especially popular despite the tight timescales.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and all of the projects have come in under budget due to the efforts and flexibility of those involved.

Letters of thanks are to be sent to Gabrielle Little and to Sarah Jacques for their contributions to the shop window initiative.

The TEPO will arrange for thanks to be given to all of the video performers via Facebook and via a personal letter where possible.

303/20 FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE DATA

Reports were presented by the TEPO and the RFO.

It was noted that some of the weekly Facebook features, particularly "Wednesday Wonder" have become exhausted and no further material is available. Despite this, follower numbers in general continue to rise and have tripled since lockdown and even more since the virtual Switch On took place and the video messages which are ongoing.

The newest Facebook page Shoplocalstannes is proving slower to attract followers but has more of a long-term focus as it is about supporting local businesses and not just about temporary opening hours.

The Christmas window display in the former JR Taylor store has been exceptionally popular and photos have had extremely high viewing numbers on social media.

The report was noted.

304/20 ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DATA FOR ST. ANNE'S

The TEPO explained that a new version of the business database has been completed which will make it easier to generate true comparisons from this point.

The parameters defining what and where is “the town centre” need to be clarified so that there is consistency when data is considered by different groups such as the Town Centre Working Group so that everyone is using the same footprint.

The report was noted.

305/20 STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Councillor G Harrison discussed the outcomes of the recent Working Group meeting from which three themes had been chosen:

- Review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Promotion of the town and its identity
- Seeking additional funding such as grants so that more projects can be delivered

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25 pm

306/20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 6pm**. The meeting will be via the Zoom conferencing app.

Signed as a true and correct record

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Chairman 16th February 2021