

Minutes of a meeting of the **FINANCE and GENERAL PURPOSES** Committee held in the Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillors	Peter Bucklitsch Tracey Lovewell* Kay Moss David Neeves Colin Stocks Matthew Street* Neil Waller	Vice - Chairman Chairman
Also present		Melanie Street Karen Whiley	Assistant Town Clerk RFO

8 members of the public in the chamber
1 member of the public online

*Denotes non attendance

APOLOGIES

Cllr Tracey Lovewell
Cllr Matthew Street

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2021

9681 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2021 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

GRANTS

To consider the grant applications received and agree any action

The Chairman welcomed representatives from the various organisations attending and explained the grant awarding process. Seven representatives spoke in support of their application and the Chairman thanked them for their willingness to speak and answer the committee's questions. Members then discussed all applications received.

The committee agreed to postpone a decision on the applications from the 'Children with Cancer' group and 'Crowborough Wolfe Bowling Club' until more information was supplied. An officer will contact both organisations and request more details. It was agreed these two applications would be heard as exceptional applications at a future meeting.

Two members of the public in the chamber left the meeting.

9682 RESOLVED to award the following grants:

- Beacon Swimming Club - £2,000
- Crowborough Bonfire and Carnival Society - £1,500
- Crowborough Community Orchard - £1,000
- Crowborough and District Anglers Association - £500
- Green Transition Crowborough - £500
- RVS Crowborough Darby and Joan Club - £1,500

A total of £7,000 was awarded in grants.

Six members of the public in the chamber left the meeting.

FINANCE

To note the Current Income and Expenditure position and Earmarked Reserves and agree any action

The current Income and Expenditure position was noted. Following the discovery of a previously-unknown meter on council land members asked that an audit of all facilities takes place to confirm no other unknown meters exist.

9683 RESOLVED to transfer any remaining funds in Earmarked Reserve 314/901/9075 and code 115/4150 at year end to the General Reserve, and to Earmark all remaining funds in 113/4250 at year end.

To review the current loan summary

The current loan summary was noted. Members discussed the description used for the 'Development of Goldsmiths' loan and agreed the Responsible Finance Officer would investigate whether it is possible to identify from historical documents which areas at Goldsmiths had benefitted from the loan.

To note the latest figures from Basepoint

The latest figures from Basepoint were noted.

To note the valuations from the Property Valuation

The property valuations were noted. Members observed that the County Park and Palesgate Lane/Lime Kiln Playing Fields had been omitted. It was agreed that the Responsible Finance Officer would cross-check the council's land register and contact the company providing the valuations for information.

To note the internal auditors report and supporting comments and agree any action

The internal auditors report and supporting comments were noted. Members discussed the valuation of the Pine Grove building and the recommended amendments to the Financial Regulations. It was agreed that the recommendation to remove the words 'verified and

certified' from regulation 5.3 would weaken it and this would not be beneficial to the council.

- 9684 RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the Financial Regulations are amended to include the indicated amendment to regulation 5.2.

Councillors considered the auditors recommendation relating to fidelity insurance.

- 9685 RESOLVED** to increase the fidelity insurance from the 'up to £2million' band to the 'between £2million and £5million' band of cover

One member of the public online left the meeting.

To review current IT support and back-up costs and agree any action

The Responsible Finance Officer agreed to provide further quotes for the next meeting.

To review card payment facility costs and agree any action

The committee considered the quotes provided.

- 9686 RESOLVED** to purchase the card reader as listed in Option C (Square).

To note the signing of bank reconciliations

The signing of the bank reconciliations was noted.

REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROLS

To note the Officer's report and agree any action

Members reviewed the Internal Controls. It was noted that the Chairman of the Personnel Committee had not countersigned the payroll for the past three months and it was agreed he would be encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

- 9687 RESOLVED** to recommend the Internal Controls as listed to Full Council

The committee noted that statements 2, 5, 6 and 7 of the Annual Governance Statement had been complied with.

EXEMPT BUSINESS

- 9688 RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

To note the confidential report on Pine Grove

Members discussed the report and the next course of action.

9689 RESOLVED to immediately commence Option 1 and 2 as set out in the officer's report

To note the confidential aged debt report

The aged debt report was noted.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm