

A meeting of the Governance & Finance Committee was held in the Pavilion, Manor Park Sports Club, Hackthorn Road, Welton, LN2 3PA on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs R Fletcher (Chairman), N Hornsey, Mrs M Chapman, A Lowen and G Briggs

Clerk: Mrs Julie Murray

Please be advised that these are notes of the meeting taken by the Clerk and cannot in any way be regarded as the official minutes of Council proceedings until they are approved and signed at the next meeting.

24/10/32 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24/10/33 Apologies for Absence

On a proposal from Cllr Lowen, seconded by Cllr Briggs, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** following a vote to accept apologies from Cllrs Pikett and Powell having considered and accepted their reasons for absence. Cllr Seal was absent with no apologies given.

24/10/34 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24/10/35 Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Hornsey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Chapman, it was **RESOLVED** following a unanimous vote that the notes of the meeting held on 9th July 2024 be approved and signed as the minutes.

24/10/36 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the VAT reclaim was successful and a refund of £23, 654.00 has been received from HMRC.

24/10/37 Village Hall Redevelopment

The Parish Council (PC) has received a proposal from the Welton Village Hall Trust Committee (WVHT); unfortunately, none of their members was available to attend this meeting. The PC at its meeting in March (minute number 24/03/21) resolved to support the proposal put forward at that time and in principle is in support of the project. This proposal contains a request for the PC to include in its budget for 2025/26 an amount of £30,000 to employ a part-time Project Manager to steer the project forward, develop the role, to apply for a Public Works Loan of £600,000 and apply for additional grant funding. A draft budget has been produced with an increase of 1.96%, however if £30k were to be included it would increase the bottom line to 16.05%; the post would include seeking funding, completing applications for grants and all administration associated with the project.

Cllrs Briggs (GB) and Pikett (DP) have been working with the WVHT as part of the Working Group set up for this project; GB reported on the context of the proposal. The WVHT has made multiple attempts to access grant funding without success as Welton is identified too affluent to attract large grants. The Village Hall Trust and its attributes are all run by volunteers; the Village Hall is an asset to our community and needs to be prevented from becoming outdated and run down. This proposal recognises that they cannot deliver the required repairs/replacements and the PC is in a better position to do so. The council needs to decide if this is a facility that it wants to support and maintain for the community to secure the building for the future. The freehold and building would be transferred into the ownership of the PC and the WVHT will continue to conduct the day to day administration.

The PC needs to estimate what the future costs might be; there is an element of risk, although it should be self-funding and will create more work for the PC staff. Putting aside the question of the £30k; does the PC wish to move forward with the project? A copy of their latest audited accounts and list of regular and future bookings will be requested.

On a proposal from Cllr Briggs, seconded by Cllr Fletcher, it was **RESOLVED** following a unanimous vote that the PC will agree to fund a part-time Project Manager to deliver the WVHT proposal contained in the report to the PC dated October 2024 and for the Governance & Finance Committee to determine and recommend to Full Council how such a post could be funded.

24/10/38 Assets of Community Value

There are three assets to be renewed, the Village Hall, Health Centre and Black Bull. WLDC has accepted the Village Hall but requires further information to support the other two. A deadline will be established for them to provide the required information.

24/10/39 Finance Matters

a) Members were provided with details of the Council’s income, expenditure and Ear Marked Reserves to 30.9.24. Cllr Fletcher had provided a detailed half year report at the Full Council meeting held on 14.10.24.

b) **Budget 2025/26** – the matter previously discussed at 24/10/37 of increasing the budget by 16.05% to include funding a part-time Project Manager was discussed and it was thought that some monies could come through the precept with reserves to offset the remainder through a due diligence process; 50/50 Precept and Ear Marked Reserves and possibly the WVHT being asked to make a contribution. The public should be consulted regarding the redevelopment of the VH, possibly using the Annual Parish Meeting next year for that process. On a proposal from Cllr Briggs, seconded by Cllr Fletcher, it was **RESOLVED** following a unanimous vote that the Clerk/RFO will re-work the budget with a £15,000 and £30,000 option to be considered by Full Council at their meeting in November.

c) No further matters were required to be discussed.

Chairman.....

Date.....