



Tiverton Town Council

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Draft until approved

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held virtually on the 13th July 2020, commencing at 6pm.

Present: Cllr's D Knowles (Chairman), J Blagg, A Bush, N Davey, S Griggs, C Harrower, I Hill, B Holdman, C Slade, W Burke and J Rendle.

In Attendance: Town Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe) and Assistant to the Town clerk (Mrs J Hubbard).

No attendance: Cllr C Daw, S Bush and Cllr T Lindus

The Council agreed for the recording of the meeting for purposes of minute taking.

090	Apologies An apology had been received from Councillor A Perris due to work. Resolved to accept this apology
091	Declarations of Interest No Declarations under the Code of Conduct were made at this stage of the meeting
092	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 th March 2020 were agreed as a true record.
093	Matters arising from the Minutes that are not an agenda item The town clerk informed the meeting that he had emailed Andy Busby from MDDC with the Minute of the February meeting appertaining to playgrounds, and hoped that a suitable response would be made by him for the next meeting,
094	Democratic Period The town clerk informed the meeting that he had not received any questions from members of the public for this meeting.
095	Financial Reports The Balance sheet for the 30 th June 2020 was adopted The income and expenditure reports for May and June were adopted The list of payments made for May and June were agreed. There was a question regarding the refund of a grant for the Neighbourhood Plan. The town clerk explained that under the rules of the grant any outstanding funds had to be refunded at the end of the financial year, however a new grant of £10K had now been received.
096	Covid-19 Town Regeneration Grant MDDC had provided the town council with £5k for the regeneration of the town following re-opening of business premises. Cllr C Slade suggested that some funds could be used by the Tourist Centre and possibly some funding on advertisement of the town. Cllr I Hill asked if there was a time limit for a decision, and Cllr Slade replied that it was hoped that we could make our decision within the next few weeks. Cllr B Holdman asked what the other towns were doing, to which Cllr Slade replied that Crediton were spending some of their grant on

	<p>seating for their outdoor market. Cllr W Burke felt that the tourist centre should be awarded £1k, however Cllr A Bush felt that we needed to find out what they could do with funding; and questioned if £1k would be sufficient, Agreed that the town clerk would make enquires from the tourist centre on this matter. It was agreed that any other ideas would be forwarded to the Mayor and town clerk prior to their Zoom meeting on Thursday lunchtime with the other towns and the district council. Cllr S Griggs stated that MDDC were providing free car parking in August and September. A decision would be made at the council meeting next Monday.</p>
<p>097</p>	<p>Financial Impact of Covid-19 on the Town Council</p> <p>The town clerk informed members that the Citizens Advice had been unable to operate their face to face operations since lockdown. He had not charged them rent for four months, which had resulted in a loss to the council of £2207. It was understood that they were able to deal with telephone enquiries, working from home. It would be difficult to operate face to face enquires due to distancing restrictions. Cllr Davey stated that one option for the future might be the use of the Mayoralty room. It was agreed that the Citizens Advice would not be charged rent until the end of September. The situation would be reviewed at the September meeting.</p> <p>The tenant at the New hall had been given a period of three months' rent free but had recommenced payments from July. They were however asking if anything could be done to assist them as they were losing a great deal of revenue at present. It was agreed that they would be permitted to half a 50% reduction for August and September.</p> <p>The town clerk informed the meeting that the interior painting of the town hall had commenced taking advantage of the lockdown situation. There had been a slight adjustment of the cost because they had not included the Citizen area and the need for to coats of paint on the ceiling. The total cost would be £5305. Because Mr Hewitt was not Vat registered the paint would be purchased via the Travis Perkins account. It was agreed because of the lockdown situation it would have been difficult to obtain other estimates for doing this work and therefore agreed that this cost was reasonable and there was an ideal opportunity to get the job done as soon as possible.</p> <p>The town clerk informed members that because of cancellations of bookings at the New hall there had been a loss of around £9,319. The three staff employed at the New hall had all been furloughed, but the council had made up the 20% difference. At the present time no live performances are permitted indoors, so it is likely that there will be little improvement in the situation until possibly the very end of the year.</p>
<p>098</p>	<p>Covid-19 Emergency Grant</p> <p>At the beginning of the lockdown the Mayor and Chairman of finance had agreed that £10k could be sent to CHAT as an emergency grant. £5k of that funding was awarded on the understanding that any funds left over would be returned. There had been some debate within the Covid-19 group as to whether some of that funding could be diverted to the Community Transport group to assist in transport for those people needing to use it to go to hospital and other essential appointments. Agreed that we would find out from CHAT what funding's were used</p>
<p>099</p>	<p>Next Meeting Monday 14th September 2020</p>

Signed

Date
