

LYNTON AND LYNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM

Present:

	Councillors	
	C Sleep	(Vice Chairman)
	D Harding	
	S Hibbert	
	A Hobbs	
	J Patrinos	
	B Peacock	
	M Pearce	
	(Vacancy)	
	(Vacancy)	

Although not on this Committee:

	A Rodway
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Officers: Town Clerk, Finance Officer, Town Council Secretary

228/20 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Sleep be Chairman of Policy & Finance Committee for the rest of the 2020-21 Council year.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Harding be Vice Chairman of Policy & Finance Committee for the rest of the 2020-21 Council year

229/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were three members of the public present in an observational capacity.

230/20 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Hibbert declared an interest in item 7a, Lyn in Bloom grant request. Councillor Pearce declared an interest in a payment for a wedding advert, Councillor Peacock declared an interest in the town council charges item as he is an allotment holder.

231/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

232/20 MATTERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

a. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial statements for February 2021 had previously been emailed to Members and it was

RESOLVED:

Financial statements as attached to these minutes be approved.

b. SEASONAL UNDERTAKINGS

Statements of income and expenditure for February 2021 had previously been emailed to Members and it was

RESOLVED

That the reports be noted.

c. CHEQUES & ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS

A list of cheques and electronic accounts had previously been emailed to Members for consideration. It was

RESOLVED

That the attached list of payments be authorised for BACS transfer.

233/20 MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION

a. Grant Application – Lyn in Bloom

It was

RECOMMENDED

To grant Lyn in Bloom a sum of £2,000 to purchase flowers and plants for planters and planting locations situated around Lynton & Lynmouth.

b. Purchase of Pig Fields

Council discussed the possibility of purchasing the pig fields/Smugglers Wood for the community to benefit from them in future, and after an extensive debate it was

RECOMMENDED

That Council would go ahead with this plan. A statement would be prepared for Full Council.

c. Allied Pharmacies

This company is looking for possible venues for Covid vaccinations and they are possibly looking to rent a space in Town Hall until the end of August 2021.

It was

RECOMMENDED

To allow them to go ahead.

d. VAT Decision

It was

RECOMMENDED

Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council should opt to tax its interest in Lyn Work Hub.

e. Parish Online

This item was brought from Estates & Amenities, and Councillors discussed the cost implications of this. It was

RECOMMENDED

To go ahead with Parish Online.

f. Councillor Progression

Councillors discussed whether it was necessary to formalise/review how they progress to head up committees and then on to become Mayor, it

RECOMMENDED

To explore this item more fully by checking information from DALC and SLCC, and to find out whether there is a precedent within other Councils.

g. Reserve Fund Allocations 2021

Finance Officer previously emailed a Reserve Fund Allocation working sheet to Councillors, and this was discussed in some detail. It was

RECOMMENDED

To adopt reserve fund allocations as discussed.

h. Weddings at Town Hall

Councillor Pearce talked this item. He stated the £1,000 budget per year is adequate and this covers the subscription to Hitched.co.uk, which seems the most popular of the Wedding websites. It was

RECOMMENDED

To carry on funding the wedding group.

i. Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Members discussed whether any amendments were necessary to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and it was

RECOMMENDED

These would be approved as is.

j. Insurance Review

Town Clerk updated on amendments and stated Council continues to get good service. There are two years left to run on the five year contract.

k. Town Council Charges

An update on charges was discussed. It was

RECOMMENDED

Harbour will rise by 5%, Cemetery by 10% and Lynbridge by 1% (RPI). Town Hall hire and allotments would remain the same.

l. Misleading Road Signs

Councillor Hobbs reported on road closed signs that are misleading the delivery drivers, and this seems to be a frequent occurrence. It was

RECOMMENDED

Town Clerk write to Highways Authority about this matter.

m. Polystyrene Bodyboard Campaign

Plastic free North Devon requested an update on LLTC action regarding this campaign. It was

RECOMMENDED

To respond that LLTC do not intend to open up that Market, Lynmouth being not suitable for the use of those sorts of boards and they are not actually widely available in the Parish.

n. Devon Communities Together

Membership renewal reminder. It was

RECOMMENDED

To renew membership.

o. Public Space Protection Order – Dog Control

As LLTC only has a few old signs it was

RECOMMENDED

To purchase new signage, as approved by North Devon Council.

Also the use of CCTV was discussed along with the legality of this. It was

RECOMMENDED

This would be looked into

234/20 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

a. Rural Payments Agency – Late Claim Penalty

After Council's appeal, RPA are standing firm on this and upholding its original decision of the late claim.

Meeting Closed 20.55 pm

Chairman