

MEETING OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Tuesday 29 October 2019

Present:

Cllr K Barker Cllr C Belsom Cllr T Martin
Cllr D Knights The Mayor, Cllr A Reynolds Cllr B J Martin
Cllr J Irwin

Absent:

Cllr A Hook

In Attendance:

L Bareham

57. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Thomas and Saunders

Cllr B J Martin noted his disappointment of Members who did not attend or send apologies.

58. Declarations of Interest

Cllr B J Martin	DNPI	65
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59. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes were amended to note that Cllr Saunders was not concerned about the specific date, more of an ambition to arrive at a decision. Cllr Barker proposed, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Policy & Finance Meeting dated 24th September 2019**

60. Budget 2020/2021

Draft budgets had been received from Community Services and Climate and Biodiversity Committees, but it was agreed that not much could be discussed until other committees had supplied budgets. It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to defer the item.**

61. 12 Market Place

Cllr Irwin confirmed the online survey was live until 31st October and the consultation evening was 7th November. The working group had been meeting with various stakeholders including Breadings Estate Agents, Museums Together, Faversham Society, Citizens Advice, SBC. The outcome of these meetings will be fed into the 7th's presentation. He didn't think either option was mutually exclusive and reported that we had received over 250 responses to

the survey. Following the consultation meeting, options may need to be removed or refined and a second period of consultation take place. Members expected to make proposals at the Town Council meeting on 9th December.

62. **Town Jetty**

Cllr Barker proposed, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council suspends Financial Regulation 11.h, under the General Power of Competence, in relation to supplier selection for the immediate repair of the lower element of the Creek Jetty at Front Brents. It should do so given the urgency of the work required, the value offered to the town and the opportunity to more fully investigate the supply options for the repair of the upper segment of the jetty.***

Cllr Barker proposed, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting ***RESOLVED that Faversham Town Council accepts the proposal by Brian Pain of The Faversham Creek Navigation Co CIC to repair the lower element of the Creek Jetty at Front Brents. This work, provided free of charge and valued at an estimated £4,000, would be undertaken subject to written confirmation of:***

- a. ***Public Liability insurance cover***
- b. ***Confirmation of the skills and experience of the team undertaking the repairs***
- c. ***A description of the work to be undertaken***

63. **Front Brents**

It was proposed by Cllr Irwin, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to support part funding of the repairs to the Front Brents subject to a site visit***

The site visit to be arranged by the Town Clerk

64. **Planning Advisor**

It was generally agreed that existing staff resources should be used for planning advice and perhaps delegate powers to comment on tree applications. As Cllr Saunders had initiated the subject, it was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Belsom and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to defer this item to the Planning Committee***

65. **Marketing Forum**

Cllrs T Martin and Knights presented their draft paper to the meeting. Cllr T Martin reported that the Town Council appeared to favour specific businesses, but the town had a wealth of good things to promote and the proposals were to see how to assist all with the right amount of support – heritage, businesses, tourism, culture - coming together rather than duplicating, promoting the town in a coherent way. The Town Council would act as a facilitator of the marketing forum and invite representatives to attend.

The Economic Development Officer had drafted a wish list for funding, which included the annual grants to festivals and it was agreed to consider this at the next meeting. It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the briefing paper for the marketing forum subject to agreeing a budget**

66. **Christmas Grant**

Cllr Knights noted the success of the recent Halloween Trail and requested that the Town Council apply for SBC's Christmas grant to develop a Santa's garden in 12 Market Place in order to run a similar event. It was agreed that it was a good initiative. It was proposed by Cllr Knights, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to make an application to SBC's Christmas Grant**

67. **Any Other Business**

Cllr Irwin noted that he had recently spoken to a SBC officer who had set up Active Swale, he suggested the Sport Council be branded Active Faversham, to coincide with this initiative.

The Town Clerk requested that the External Auditor's Report be brought to the Town Council, rather than Policy & Finance Committee due to the delay to the conclusion and this was agreed.

It was RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

68. **Photocopier/Printer Contract**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED to contact the Town Council's current supplier to see if they could match the lowest quote received.**