

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING held virtually on Wednesday 6th May, 7pm

Present:

Cllr B J Martin	Cllr Saunders	Cllr Irwin
Cllr T Martin	Cllr Barker	Cllr Knights
The Mayor Cllr Reynolds	Cllr Hook	Cllr Thomas

In Attendance:

L Bareham (Town Clerk)

113.	<p><u>Apologies</u> None</p>	
114.	<p><u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interest</u> Cllr Thomas – FACE grant (119) Cllr B J Martin – Town Renewal (120) Cllr Irwin – Umbrella grant (119)</p>	
115.	<p><u>Minutes and Matters Arising</u> It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was <i>RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting dated 15th April 2020.</i></p>	
116.	<p><u>Budget Risks</u> Cllr B J Martin noted potential risks in income streams – Guildhall weddings, Market Place bookings, Transport Weekend. The Town Clerk confirmed that only one wedding had been cancelled to date; others had been moved to later in 2020 and other bookings for 2021 had already been taken. The Transport Weekend income covers the cost of the festival, as that had been cancelled no significant losses would be made. The mooring fees had been deferred for one quarter.</p> <p>Cllr B J Martin further noted the risk that Swale Borough Council may not honour the payment for the second payment of the precept and would be asking parish councils to take a share of the deficit. Cllr Hook thought some residents would be left paying twice, as some areas of Sittingbourne were not parished. Cllr B J Martin</p>	

	<p>considered it would be difficult, if residents of Faversham had not paid their council tax.</p> <p>Cllr Hook proposed, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED that the Town Council apply for the business rate grant for the Guildhall and Market Place.</p>	
117.	<p><u>Action Plan</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to amend (9) Lobby both public and private bodies to gain the best for Faversham</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to amend (1a) Support KCC in carrying out a thorough consultation; (9c) Better engagement with Kent Police, Swale Borough Council and British Transport Police; (10b) include 12 Market Place</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to add (5d) seek to implement, where possible, recommendations made by the Electoral Commission or other independent bodies aimed at reducing barriers to standing for election to this council.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Hook, and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to accept the Annual Action Plan 2020-2021 as amended</p>	
118.	<p><u>Review of Emergency Grant Policy</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED not to reallocate any further funding to the Coronavirus Emergency Grant (current remaining allocation £4,305)</p> <p>Cllr Saunders proposed, seconded by the Mayor, Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to amend the policy to read “Organisations can apply for a Coronavirus Emergency Grant to directly support individuals and people in need to provide food, accommodation, health and wellbeing and education.</p> <p>Cllr B J Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to amend the application form</p>	

	<i>to include (a) other funding received or applied for (b) how has the crisis effected your cash flow</i>	
119.	<p><u>Coronavirus Emergency Grants</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was <i>RESOLVED to decline the application from Creek Creative, as it did not fund a specific project related to Covid-19 emergency</i></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by the Mayor Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was <i>RESOLVED to grant Faversham Umbrella £100 as a one-off payment</i></p> <p>Cllr Saunders proposed declining the application made by FACE, however as there was no seconder the motion failed. It was noted that clients were unable to make a donation as they did not have cash, alternative methods of payment should be considered such as a handheld card machine. It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was <i>RESOLVED to grant £160 as a one-off payment</i></p> <p>Cllr T Martin proposed, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was <i>RESOLVED to decline the application from Brogdale as they should be looking at government schemes to cover staffing costs and they were not in the Faversham Wards</i></p>	
120.	<p><u>Supporting the Renewal of the Town Offer</u></p> <p>Cllr Saunders presented a paper summarising his proposal for moving forward following major economic dislocation, which was likely to lead to an increase in unemployment and failure of businesses. Looking at encouraging organisations to work together, he felt the Town Council had an obligation to lead.</p> <p>Cllr T Martin noted that there was a crossover with the Town Marketing Group which had been working with SBC until officers had been reallocated to community support. He disagreed that unearmarked funds should be used.</p> <p>Cllr Hook broadly agreed with the report, but felt item 3 was premature. Cllr B J Martin thought the report was well intentioned but there should be an appetite for an environmental change. They both felt this should be a listening exercise.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Knights agreed with Cllr T Martin, the Marketing Group and EDO were to present a report on a recovery plan. The tourism industry will be about a staycation, the town needs to inspire confidence and have a clear pathway forward.</p> <p>Cllr Saunders confirmed that item 1 was to write to the organisations to see if they were interested in working with us via a virtual discussion. He was relaxed about item 3. Cllr Saunders suggested that he, Cllr B J Martin and the Town Clerk agree the final letter. Cllr Barker felt there was no time pressure, to do it at our leisure and hand it to the Town Marketing Group. Cllr Irwin agreed the sentiment was good but it was too complex to make a decision in a single meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Knights asked for a Town Marketing Group asap, but Cllr Hook felt it needed to be led by the whole council and not just the TMG.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED that the Town Marketing Group and Cllrs Saunders, Irwin and Barker review the document and report to Policy and Finance on 25th May.</p>	
121.	<p><u>12 Market Place Update</u></p> <p>The Town Clerk's report on Magna Carta funding was noted and it was agreed to hold a meeting of the Heritage Working Group as soon as possible.</p>	
122.	<p><u>Town Marketing Group</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Irwin, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED that the survey be reconsidered by the Town Marketing Group and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</p>	
123.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>It was noted that waste recycling sites were reopening</p>	
	The meeting closed at 8.45pm	