**FINANCE, RESOURCES & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON 4TH MARCH at 7.00PM**

**Present:**

Cllr A Allen Cllr D Fletcher

Cllr S Brooke Cllr G Kennedy

Cllr C Burton Cllr S Oldrieve

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wells – Town Clerk

Ms A Christie - Assistant Town Clerk

*The meeting was chaired by Cllr Burton.*

**FR&GP.24/10 Apologies for absence**

Cllr M Evans – unwell.

**FR&GP.24/11 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Allen declared a personal interest in item FR&GP.24/15 (setting of fees and charges for the Cemetery).

**\*\*Public Participation:**

None.

**FR&GP.24/12 Minutes**:

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2024 *(\*copy previously circulated)* were confirmed as a correct record and were approved.

ii) The Town Clerk advised that the EOI for feasibility funding from TDC (Item: FR&GP.24/08) had been successfully awarded £3,000.

**FR&GP.24/13 Standing Item – Climate and Ecology Emergency:**

Membersnoted the Council Declaration to embed the climate and ecology emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

**FR&GP.24/14 Accounts & Financial Statement**:

Members:

1. Received and approved payment and receipt transactions between 1st January and 22nd February 2024 (*\*copy previously circulated*).
2. Received and approved the bank reconciliation between 1st January and 22nd February 2024 (*\*copy previously circulated*).

iii) notedthe balances and borrowing as below:

 General Account: £ 9,409.11 (as at 22.02.24)

Income/Precept A/C: £ 111,372.34 (as at 22.02.24)

Capital A/C: £ 45,280.42 (as at 22.02.24)

CIL A/C: £ 94,436.84 (as at 22.02.24)

National Lottery Grant: £ 19,113.87 (as at 22.02.24)

Redwood Bank (Rev) £ 85,000.00 (as at 22.02.24)

Charity Bank Invest (Rev) £ 85,000.00 (as at 22.02.24)

Cambridge & Counties (CiL) £ 85,000.00 (as at 22.02.24)

Nationwide Build Soc (CiL) £ 85,000.00 (as at 22.02.24)

B’hamshire Build Soc (Cap) £ 110,000.00 (as at 22.02.24)

Borrowing

Public Sector Works Loan £ - 412,624.18 (as at 22.02.24)

**FR&GP.24/15 Fees and Charges 2024/25**

Members undertook a review of the current fees and charges and consideredapproving charges for 2024/25 (*\*copy previously circulated*).

**Resolved:** To approve the fees and charges as set out, with the following amendments:

1. To increase the interment of cremated remains fee to £234/468.
2. To increase Part 4 kerb set charges (D & E) by 10%.

**FR&GP.24/16 Legal Advice Service (LAS)**

Members consideredrenewing the current agreement. The Town Clerk provided further information at the meeting in relation to current service usage.

**Resolved:** To proceed with renewing the Legal Advice Service for 2024/25 at a cost of £1,250 plus vat.

**FR&GP.24/17 Grant Requests**

Members received and consideredapplication(s) for grant funding from:

1. Teignbridge Citizens Advice (*\*copy previously circulated*)
2. Moorland Community Care Group (*\*copy previously circulated*)
3. Bovey Tracey Carnival Committee (*\*copy previously circulated*)
4. Bovey Tracey Youth Café (*\*copy previously circulated*)

Members discussed the grant applications which exceeded the budget for 2024/25. Each application was therefore considered in this light. It was considered that the carnival request was unlike other submissions of ‘all year service provision’, some of which target more vulnerable members of the parish. Supporting all applications will require the use of reserves/underspends in 2023/24. The Carnival Committee application was noted that the 1-day free event is a community event worthy of additional expenditure and is particularly important, given the suggested absence of the Nourish festival.

**Resolved:** Following discussion members resolved to award grants as follows:

i) Teignbridge Citizens Advice – Approve grant amount of £9,793 conditioned that the new Heathfield service provision is reviewed in 6 months’ time and agreement that the service can be terminated in 6 months’ time if not successful and a pro-rata grant reimbursement for the remaining period to be returned.

ii) Moorland Community Care – Approve grant amount of £1,500.

iii) B T Carnival Committee – Approve grant amount of £3,000, however, to advise that the grant was only awarded this year as there was surplus grant funding available in the current year budget.

iv) B T Youth Café – Approve grant amount of £5,500 to be payable in two equal 6 monthly instalments).

**FR&GP.24/18 Reserve’s Policy – Annual Review**

Members reviewed the current Reserve’s Policy (*\*copy previously circulated*).

 **Resolved:** To approve the current policy as circulated.

**FR&GP.24/19 Income Generation**

Members considered forming a Task and Finish Group to research and recommend opportunities for further income generation as appropriate.

**Resolved:** To form a Task & Finish group open to all FR&GP Committee members. The Town Clerk to open the meeting invitation (when arranged) to other members who may wish to contribute.

**FR&GP.24/18 Matters brought forward by Councillors:** *(for information only*).

No matters brought forward.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.