

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON  
MONDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019 AT CHURCH FARM AT 7.30P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Mrs. M. Moore (Chairman), T. Bishop, Mrs. J. Manser, R. Mitchell. R. Roud and D. Thornewell

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None Received

**APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MINUTES AND APPENDIX OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Appendix of the Meeting held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be **APPROVED AND SIGNED** by the Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING**

(i) **Heating Issues – George Holding Centre**

The Clerk reported that Kent Boilercare are yet to visit the George Holding Centre and prepare a quotation for various options for the heating, this is still awaited.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(i) **Accounts for Payment and Cheques for Signature**

The Lists of Accounts for Payment for both the Main Account and Village Halls was **CIRCULATED AND APPROVED** and it was **AGREED** the relevant cheques be **SIGNED**. (Appendixed to these Minutes).

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**KALC:** **KALC News – November 2019**

It was **NOTED** that the November issue of KALC News had been received and will be available in the Parish Council Office should any Member wish for a copy.

The Chairman reported that she attended the KALC AGM at Ditton Community Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and said that Tracey Crouch did not attend but there was a man who spoke about IMAGO (East Kent and Medway) and West Kent INVOLVE. He praised KCC Community Wardens for the good work they do.

David Astley OBE, Chairman of the South East Coast Ambulance Service spoke and said they are now good for CQ3 . He also said about this work with the Air ambulance and encouraged volunteers to become First Responders and also the need for the provision of defibrillators especially in rural areas.

There is a new service on 111 with advice from midwives to relieve hospitals. They receive a lot of hoax callers including they need their battery changed in their hearing aid. Paramedics are now providing an improved service.

they have experienced problems accessing emergencies because of parked vehicles particularly at night.

The KALC Calendar of Meetings for training was given and their Budget agreed.

### **OVERALL CONSIDERATION OF PRECEPT FOR 2020/2021**

The Clerk **CIRCULATED** the provision Precept for 2020/2021.

The Clerk commented that she had received a quotation from Burslem's for the refurbishment of the War Memorial, as follows:-

Cleaning Recommendations	1,950.00 plus VAT
Re-inscription Recommendations	3,975.00 plus VAT
Re-pointing recommendations	<u>675.00</u> plus VAT
	6,600.00 plus VAT

The Clerk explained that there is £2,000 in Earmarked Reserves from 2018/2019 and £5,000 in 2019/2020 for this work so she had removed the £5,000 from the Amenities for the 2020/2021 Precept.

Cllr. Bishop expressed his opinion that we should still keep the £5,000 in the Precept in view of the possible transfer of the Public toilets in Martin Square.

After discussion, Cllr. Thornewell **PROPOSED** that the removal of the £5,000 from the Amenities budget be endorsed but instead this should be transferred to Contingencies for the Finance and General Purposes Committee, particularly having regard to the fact that we may have responsibility for the Public Toilets in Martin Square. He further **PROPOSED** that the Precept for 2020/2021, as amended, be **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council in January for adoption, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Bishop. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr. Thornewell **PROPOSED** that we apply to the War Memorials Trust for a grant towards the refurbishment works and a copy of Burslem's report be sent to the Head of Planning at the Borough Council to make sure we do not need to obtain Listed Building consent for the necessary work.

### **STAFF MATTERS**

#### **(i) Christmas and New Year Holidays**

It was **AGREED** that all staff finish work on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December and return on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. With the exception of Caretaking staff to cover Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve when both East Malling and Larkfield Village Halls are booked.

Cllr. Thornewell **PROPOSED** a vote of thanks to the Clerk for all the Planning work she carried out in respect of the Bellway Homes Inquiry.

### **ITEMS CONTRIBUTED BY MEMBERS**

Cllr. Bishop asked that a letter be sent to the Borough Council asking the current situation in respect of the outsourcing of Leybourne Country Park as members are concerned about the contribution we make and have indeed included in the Precept for 2020/2021 but are not being informed of the current status. The Parish Council will consider withholding this contribution until we have been informed of what action is being taken. As we are now leaving the EU they will not be bound by EU rules. It was **AGREED** such a letter be sent.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### **CLOSURE**

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.12p.m.

Chairman