

Minutes of the Meeting of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee

Held online @ 5.00pm Monday 8th June 2020

Present:

Cllrs Lancaster, Capstick, McPherson, Brooks and the Clerk, Miss Hassam

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Monday 5th May 2020

The minutes were received and agreed and confirmed by the Chair – Cllr Lancaster (signing of the minutes will be processed when reasonable).

4. Urgent Business

Car parks and Main Street toilets. The car parks are due to open on Monday 15th June 2020, in line with South Lakeland District Council. A risk assessment, appropriate floor markings and signs will be in place. In respect of Main Street toilets, Members noted the previous risk assessment and consultation with the contractor along with necessary signage. Additionally, the recent thoughts of the Amenities Committee (Wednesday 3rd June 2020) and correspondence from the Council's Insurance provider over 'reasonable steps' being taken. Members discussed all information available and resolved that the toilets could be opened on Wednesday 10th June 2020 (Cllr McPherson abstained). It was additionally noted that this would be reviewed as and when required – in particular, with any new legislation/guidance from the government.

The Wednesday market was also discussed, in particular, ongoing supervision as guidance on stalls (allowed) was relaxed and requests for new stalls received. Members agreed that this could be considered further at Full Council, where Cllr Bromley/Cowperthwaite could give their feedback following attendance at the market for the past 10 weeks. Members noted thanks to all concerned in keeping the market running smoothly recently, including Cllrs Bromley/Cowperthwaite and Mr Mitchell. Finally, it was noted that the Sedbergh CIC (Information Centre) had sent a new proposal (today) in respect of gazebo/weight/cone hire for the Wednesday Market (attached). Previously, the Information Centre had proposed to liaise directly with stall holders over hire of gazebos etc (since the PC had taken back responsibility on 1st April 2020), however, the new proposal requested that Sedbergh Parish Council pay the annual sum of £1,000 to Sedbergh CIC for their weekly hire and then charge separately to traders. This had not previously been raised and/or discussed with Members and it was noted, by Members at this meeting, that this proposal would not be accepted. The matter will be discussed further at Full Council on 11th June 2020.

5. Coronavirus – Impact on Income/Budget 2020/2021

The Clerk advised Members that SLDC were hoping to update further in respect of any funds/grants that may be available to Parish Councils to assist with reduced income from the closure of the car parks during April/May/June. Ongoing consideration will be given to the current (and future) Budget in the coming months. Notably, the significant reduction in funds potentially available to help assist toward future projects.

6. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation

The Financial Summary for May had been circulated to Members and payments were recommended (attached) for approval at Full Council. The Bank Reconciliation for May was also checked and found to be correct and Cllrs Brooks and Capstick will confirm by email. Signatures will be obtained as and when required in the future. The Chair and the Clerk will sign cheques following the Full Council online meeting on 11th June 2020.

7. Income and Expenditure 2020-2021

The Income and Expenditure report for 2020/2021 was circulated for information.

8. Grant Applications

- i) Sedbergh in Bloom – A grant application had been received for the sum £750.00. It was noted that Sedbergh in Bloom complete outstanding work throughout the town, tending to many areas, and the application was recommended for approval at Full Council.

9. Contractor review

Members discussed the current hourly rate for the contractor cleaning the public toilets and recommended that the rate be set equal to that of the Parish Handyman.

10. Funds for Sedbergh food cupboard

Members discussed the ongoing foodbank style initiative that the Covid19 Support Group had set up in recent weeks and it was recommended that a sum of up to £250.00 be utilised to 'top up' the cupboards as required. It was noted that an update on the Covid19 Support Group was anticipated at Full Council from Cllr Welti.

11. Date of next meeting – Monday 6th July 2020 at 5pm (to be confirmed)