

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2019 IN QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Peter Ralph
Cllr Julia Wingate

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Town Clerk)

19/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Jennings.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

19/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19/25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members received the minutes of the last meeting held on 29 October 2019 which were approved as a correct record.

19/26 FEES AND CHARGES

Members were in receipt of Fees and Charges effective from 1 April 2019, alongside historical charges, and a thorough review was completed. It was **RECOMMENDED** for:

- Quay House and grounds fixed leases for the Rear Hall (TQ7 Hairdressing), Age Concern/Rest Centre and Bin Store (Creeks End Inn) to be noted.
- Quay House rentals for Rooms 4, 8, 10 & 12 to be increased by circa 3%.
- Quay House rental for Room 9 for Kingsbridge & Saltstone Caring to remain free of charge (in lieu of historic Grant Aid).
- Quay House Casual room rentals for the Council Chamber, Rooms 3 & 7, weddings and DCC Social Services to be retained.
- A new to be introduced for commercial hire of the Council Chamber at £50.
- Allotment rents to be increased by 12.5% for a full plot and 20% for a half-sized plot.
- Bandstand hire charges to be retained.
- Equipment hire charges to be retained.
- Photocopying charges to be retained.

- Embankment Road Cemetery fees to be increased by circa 3% and rounded up to the nearest £5.

A listing of proposed Fees and Charges for financial year 2020/21 is at Annex A.

19/27 BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21

Members received a summary of current Capital receipts, Revenue & Restricted Reserves and a draft budget for financial year (FY) 2020/21 and then considered individual cost codes and project expenditure:

In particular, Members noted/agreed the following:

- South Hams District Council (SHDC) had already identified a reduction in Council Tax Support Grant at 50%.
- SHDC would notify local councils of the Council Tax Base for FY 2020/21 in mid-December whereupon a draft Band D council tax rate could be calculated.
- Quay House permanent rents (cost code 60) to be adjusted in accordance with the recommendation at agenda item 19/26 above.
- Grant Aid (Recreational & Social) (cost code 130) nil budget and no exceptional requests to be accepted by the Finance Committee.
- Grant Aid (Community Projects) (cost code 131) to include: an increased grant for Kingsbridge In Bloom.
- Trebblepark Allotments (cost code 110) to be adjusted in accordance with the recommendation at agenda item 19/26 above.
- Neighbourhood Plan (cost code 187) to be increased.
- Salaries (cost codes 220/221/222) to include extra 4 hours per week for Reception staff.
- Local history/tourism project (new cost code 261).
- Solar Farm community benefit projects (cost code 270) to be allocated for Priorities & Ambitions/OSSR project.
- Parks & Open Spaces improvements (cost code 272) to include: 2nd year Love Your Park event, increased public realm maintenance, increased Town Centre public realm improvements, youth project, OSSR projects, red telephone box/nightclub improvements and parks' equipment maintenance.
- Flood Resilience & Winter Weather (cost code 279) to include: increased surface water drains clearance.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress the draft Income and Expenditure Budget for financial year 2020/21 at Annex B to be re-considered at the next meeting.

19/28 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no members of the press or public present.

19/29 GRANT AID

Confidential paper for Members Only.

19/30 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 9 January 2019 at 7.00 p.m. (3rd quarter FY 2020/21 income & expenditure report and to re-consider the draft budget for FY 2020/21).

Annexes:

- A. Draft Fees & Charges with effect from 1 April 2020.
- B. Draft Income & Expenditure Budget for Financial Year 2020/21.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.