



**BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL**

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161 High Street, Berkhamsted  
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25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Finance & Policy Committee Meeting**

**Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30 pm.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors: R. Freedman (Chair)  
G. Stevens (Vice Chair)  
J. Jones  
N. Taylor

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Councillors: Cllr G. Corry  
Officers: S. Severn, Town Clerk (minutes), D. Beecroft, Finance Officer  
Members of Public: Mr M Burke, Mr C Hussey

**OPENING MATTERS AND GOVERNANCE**

**FP 56/22 To receive and approve Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllrs A. Foster, P. de Hoest and P. White.

**FP 57/22 Declarations of Interest Several Members of the Committee**

None declared.

- i. There were no written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and
- ii. no requests for dispensation were granted.

**FP 58/22 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were **received** and unanimously **approved**.**

**FP 59/22 Public Participation**

Two members of the public attended the meeting. One householder wished to raise the issue of trees and possible re-planting. The chairman advised that the T & E committee has a habitat working group and would be a more suitable forum. A small grant scheme has been approved by T & E to allow members of the public to apply for funding. Cllr Nigel Taylor asked that Mr Burke emailed him details of the trees. The location is Little Bridge Road where there cherry trees have been removed.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

### To consider and decide upon Grant Applications received

#### **West Hearts Healthy Hearts**

**FP 60/22**

£1932 to pay for hall hire for 42 sessions for chair-based exercise was requested.

The committee decided that they would like to support this type of activity, and it appeared that a contribution towards this cost would be welcome. It was suggested that the applicant also contacts DBC to see what assistance may be available from them. £500 grant was proposed and agreed unanimously.

**BerkoFest** £400 was requested by the organisers towards a total cost of £4,000 for November 2022 Festival.

The chairman invited Mr Charlie Hussey to detail the request made for funding. (He advised that BerkoFest would shortly formalise its Constitution and governance. It is the intention that the Town Council will be invited to nominate a representative to be part on the formal body in due course). He further explained the list of authors attending including many well-known authors. The chairman proposed and it was agreed unanimously that the grant be given in full.

#### **Thermal Imaging Camera**

**FP 61/22**

A budget of up to £4,000 requested to enable BTC to sub-contract to an organisation or persons to undertake a number of surveys, train volunteers and carry out free of charge surveys for up to 40 Berkhamsted residents. The key to success is that training is needed for the volunteers to undertake the surveys and send a report to householders. The purpose of the surveys is solely to highlight the thermal 'health' of their homes. The Chairman proposed and the committee agreed unanimously that the budget be set.

#### **Berkhamsted Town Council questionnaire for young people to inform the project to expand facilities for older children in Berkhamsted**

**FP 62/22**

To agree a budget of up to £3000 to enable BTC to engage a specialist market research firm to undertake a survey of young people throughout the schools and other organisations in the town to find out what they think / would suggest as additional recreational facilities. The chairman stated that this must provide a 'global' vision of all the various interest groups and youth organisations in the town. Cllr Taylor advised that we must include children who live here but are at school elsewhere and that the clear focus must on resident young people by taking advice from market research company. Agreed unanimously subject to the chairman's request that the survey includes all groups and interests.

**FP 63/22**

The Committee **received, noted and approved the following report:**

- i) Income & Expenditure & Variance analysis at 30.9.2022.
- ii) Payments and receipts schedules for period 30.9.2022
- iii) Balance sheet at 30.9.2022

Budget setting to be arranged with an evening budget workshop for all councillors **on 21<sup>st</sup> November** chaired by Cllr Rick Freedman.

**FP 64/22 HM King Charles III's Coronation – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The committee considered possible arrangements, given that the local council elections would take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. It was suggested that a working party including members of the public, along the model of Festival of Light, with a professional event manager, be set up including community groups.

It was noted that a budget would be needed. All councillors are to be asked to nominate themselves to the group along with any others they think should be included and an initial meeting can be arranged.

**FP 65/22 Matter of report**

External audit is complete and PKF Littlejohn has signed the certificate which is displayed according to regulation.

**Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm,

**Signed:** .....

Cllr R. Freedman, Chair

**Dated:**

**Dates of next meetings:**

**Budget workshop – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November – all councillors.**

Monday 5th December 2022 (Budget 1)

Wednesday 4th January 2023 (Budget 2)