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17.09.2020 Full Council Background Paper

Agenda item 8iii: *Finance Working Group*

Draft Minutes of the Finance Working Group meeting held 05/08/2020 are attached to this Report at Appendix i.

Agenda item 9ii: *Planning & Environment – Parking Working Group*

The Parking Working Group is due to meet on 14/09/2020 and a report will be given at the full council meeting.

Agenda item 9iii: *Planning & Environment – Planning Policy*

The Lovelace Neighbourhood Plan has been published by Guildford Borough Council in its 'Final' version: <https://www.guildford.gov.uk/lovelace>

The Plan now holds 'significant weight' until it can be confirmed by referendum and the council may wish to update its Planning Policy. The existing Policy is attached to the Agenda at Appendix F.

Agenda item 10ii: *Leisure & Facilities – Security works on The Green*

It is hoped that at least two quotes for a new gate at the main entrance to The Green will have been received the time of the meeting.

Agenda item 10iii: *Leisure & Facilities – Christmas Event*

Draft Minutes of the Christmas Event Committee meetings held 03/08/2020 and 01/09/2020 are attached to the Agenda at Appendix G.

Agenda item 10iv: *Leisure & Facilities – Draft Management Policy*

Cllr Powell-Cullingford asked for an Agenda item to be included regarding the encroachment of oak saplings into the meadow. Members will also note that the Finance Group suggested a CFGA application be entered for tree planting. These two objectives, if managed correctly, can be mutually beneficial and the draft Policy statement attempts to bring clarity to the council's goals.

The council's Climate Emergency declaration and subsequent Climate Change Action Plan must be considered in conjunction with the management of land. The Woodland Trust is coming to Ripley on 15th September to assess the site and will hopefully offer expertise, advice, and up to 75% funding.

Surrey Wildlife Trust can offer a walk-through survey of the area in question and a check of the Policy for around £500 (tbc). This is strongly recommended in order to

complete the Management Plan with a view to making sure it is ecologically sound and will achieve the objectives that the council wishes to pursue.

Agenda item 10v: *Leisure & Facilities – Autumn cut*

The Ripley Bonfire Association has traditionally arranged the autumn cut of The Green. With no Bonfire being held this year, the option of leaving the cut until spring (before end of April) is available. See <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=446> for further details.

Agenda item 10vi: *Leisure & Facilities – Playground Safety Report*

There are far fewer findings needing attention in this year's Playground Safety Report:

- Check gates work properly
- Tighten loose bolts on bow top fencing
- Replace bench
- Monitor handles and footrests on rockers
- Replace missing bolts and resurface seesaw area
- Make good worn ground areas adjacent to MUGA
- Dismantle and inspect basket swing supporting components

Recommendation: to appoint a contractor to carry out the tasks

Agenda item 10vii: *Leisure & Facilities – Car Park maintenance*

The recent works to the car park undertaken by S Hoggett Horticulture have been very successful and have attracted lots of positive comments. The work took three people two days to complete. In order to avoid a cycle of having to commit to an annual large-scale operation the contractor has been asked to submit a suggested maintenance plan, which should be with the council ahead of the meeting.

Agenda item 11iii: *Communication & Liaison – Picnic Event 2021*

The Woking District Rotary Club has been proactive in preparing for next year's Picnic. Whilst there was some early (pre-Covid) enthusiasm for promoting a Picnic this year, as evidenced by the group of attendees at the initial meeting in February, it has recently been suggested that the recently-formed Ripley Business Association may be interested in taking this on.



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MINUTES of RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE WORKING GROUP MEETING held on WEDNESDAY 5th AUGUST 2020 at 1100HRS at RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, 4 RIO HOUSE

Present: Cllr Lisanne Mealing (Chairman)
Cllr Jennie Cliff
Cllr Simon Moxon
Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford
Jim Morris, Clerk of the Council

FG 01/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received. The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Cliff, was in attendance to observe proceedings.

FG 02/20 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest were received

FG 03/20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 and Tuesday 5th May 2020 were received, confirmed, and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman

FG 04/20 BANK RECONCILIATIONS

Bank reconciliations for the first quarter of financial year 2020-21 would be scrutinised and returned by Cllr Mealing

FG 05/19 BUDGET Q1 REPORT

Members received and considered a report on the first quarter of financial year 2020-21. The budget for *Donations* had overspent due to a significant grant provided to the Ripley Corona Support Network. Further grant monies provided to Ripley Business Association would be analysed at a future meeting of the Finance Working Group when considering Q2 expenditure, although it was noted that the parish council had been widely praised for committing grant funding to local businesses facing economic uncertainty.

Members held a discussion on providing the usual Christmas lights display. The Christmas Event Committee had resolved to explore the option of running a socially-distanced market on The Green, in the same manner as the Farmers' Market had achieved. Even at a reduced scale, the Market could bring in some cash which would help towards the cost of the display. The running total profit of the Fair stood at £3,281. Fifty stalls, plus profits from a raffle / tombola could go some way to make up the difference. Further donations could be gained from local businesses, along with help promoting the Market, selling tickets, etc.

A suggestion had been put forward by Cllr Ayears to purchase 10mph signage for The Green.

It was RESOLVED: That research be carried out into being able to accept contactless payments. The Finance Group fully supported efforts to run a Christmas Market. Purchase of 10mph signage for The Green was approved.

FG 06/20 BUDGET 2021-22 & PRECEPT REPORT

Members discussed the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the likelihood that further financial support would be needed by village organisations. A budget for *Local Support Fund* would be included in calculations for 2021-22. GBC had asked for parish councils to enter bids for CFGA funding in 2021-22. Members discussed a possible scheme to plant trees, in accordance with the parish council's Climate Change Action Plan, along with projects to replace a further bus shelter, replacement of benches, and extra Christmas lighting festoons. The replacement of the Cricket Club balcony was discussed, and S106 monies arising from local developments would be committed to the project when available. Members were asked to complete a redacted spreadsheet in order to gain an understanding of what projects were most important to the council in future years. A full analysis of projected spending in 2021-22 would be undertaken at the October meeting of the Working Group.

It was RESOLVED: That projects to replace benches, plant trees, replace a bus shelter, and increase the number of Christmas light festoons be entered as potential CFGA projects for 2021-22. Members would provide completed budget spreadsheets ahead of the next meeting.

FG 07/20 MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised by members.

FG 08/20 INVOICES FOR APPROVAL

Members received and approved invoices presented for approval, which had been distributed via email ahead of the meeting.

FG 09/20 DATE OF THE NEXT FINANCE GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the parish council's Finance Working Group was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 4pm, at the Parish Council Office and/or via the Zoom platform as per government guidelines

The meeting closed at 1230hrs

Date:

Chairman