

EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 22 MARCH 2021** via the Zoom video conferencing platform and in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M S Goodge

Vice Chairman: Cllr A P Booth

Councillors: Cllr Mrs S Amor, Cllr A Dyke, Cllr R W Raphael, Cllr Mrs M Sale, Cllr Mrs F S Smith

Officers: Mrs C Chambers (Finance Officer)
Mrs K Cullen (Administration Officer)

Also present: Eric Jones & Connor Hill – Festival Players
Val Trim – Avonbank Brass Band
Bruce Taylor – Battle of Evesham

25. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Nishigaki and Cllr P Clifford

26. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest (if any)

Cllr R Raphael declared an interest in agenda item 8 (Application for funding from Avonbank Brass Band since he was a Trustee)

27. Minutes of the last meeting including questions as to the progress of any item

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2021 were circulated with the agenda

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.

28. Financial Report up to March 2021

Circulated with the agenda was a report which compared income and expenditure from April 2020 to February 2021 against the budget figures for the financial year 2020/21.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the figures for April 2020 to February 2021 be approved.

29. Funding Request – Battle of Evesham

Circulated with the agenda was an application form and supporting documents in relation to The Battle of Evesham's Festival weekend to be held on 7th and 8th August.

The event organisers had requested funding of £5000. The committee was very complimentary of the event which had been great success over the past few years. It was highlighted that the event brought lots of people into town which then generated business for the town.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Battle of Evesham Festival with a grant of £5,000.

30. Festival/Event Application – Battle of Evesham Medieval Festival

Also circulated with the agenda was an application form for funding for the Medieval Market which was due to take place in was due to take place on 22 and 23 May. It was a supplementary event to the Battle of Evesham Festival that would attract people to the town centre. It involved a medieval market to be held in the Market Square, a banquet and lots of other activities.

The organisers of the event requested funding of £5000 which would cover the whole cost of the event.

It was commented that if the funding request was approved, that would be a large amount of money from the budget. The budget for all festivals and events in this financial year was £18,500. The Battle of Evesham committee were applying for £5,000 for the festival in August and £5,000 in for the market in May which would only leave £8,500 for all other festivals and events.

However, it was subsequently **RESOLVED** to support the Battle of Evesham Market with a grant of £5,000.

31. Festival/Event Application – Evesham Festival Players “A weekend Festival in July 2021”

Circulated with the agenda was an application form for funding from the Festival Players for a town centre event in Evesham over the weekend of 16-18 July 2021. The request was for £1,500.

Mr Eric Jones was on hand to provide more information. It was planned to open the festival on Friday evening with local bands performing on a stage in the Market Square, Saturday would be a day for children’s entertainment on the same stage. Sunday would see a band playing great block buster movies themes of 80/90s. There would also be performances from professional actors and musicians who had not been able to get work during the pandemic.

A member questioned the use of public money to pay professional actors. In response it was pointed out that the Battle of Evesham used professional actors and therefore that should not put members off providing funding.

Mr Eric Jones then asked if the council would prefer to pay for some of the invoices for the event. For example, the stage was going to cost around £1,000 and then submit invoices for other expenses for £500.

The Chairman and members agreed that this would be the best way of funding the event.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Festival Players with up to £1,500 from the grants budget.

32. Festival/Event Application – Avon Bank Brass Band – Proposed Short Series of Summer and Autumn concerts.

Circulated with the agenda was an application form for funding from Avon Brass Band for a short series of summer and autumn concerts. The request was for £1,000 to be made up of £500 maintenance and £500 for the actual concerts.

Since the sad passing of Mr Derek Wells who used to organise the Bands in the Park Concerts, there had been a void in summer programming at the band stand.

Avonbank Brass Band had proposed to perform three concerts through the summer to the winter.

It was **RESOLVED** to support Avon Brass Bank a grant of £1000.

33. Dual Authorisation

Circulated with the agenda was a report which informed members of the progress made with regards to the dual authorisation signatories for the Councils bank account.

The report reminded Members that the last audit report it was highlighted that the Council needed a dual authorisation account to make payments. The Clerk had been in contact with Lloyds, HSBC and Unity Trust bank but only Unity had actually provided information. At that time the Co-op Bank with which the Council bank did not offer this service.

However, the Co-operative Bank have now recently offered dual authorisation meaning that the Council did not need to open a new account with another bank.

The report recommended that two councillors are nominated as signatories to AETC account which would then make it dual authorisation.

It was recommended that the signatories would need to be available on the day when payments are to be made in order for them to be contacted and be able to authorise payments. There would be no cost to the council for this and the signatories would have to complete a form to go on the account.

Following debate, it was recommended that the Mayor Cllr Mrs S Amor and Chairman of the Finance Committee Cllr M Goodge be the two signatories.

34. Matter of Urgency

There were no matters raised under this item.

NOTED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.16 pm.

COUNCILLOR M S GOODGE
CHAIRMAN