

# Hetton Town Council



## **Minutes of the meeting of Management, Policy & Finance Committee held on Thursday 11 November 2021 at The Hetton Centre**

### **Present**

Cllrs T Dodds, R Elvin (Chairman), D Geddis, R Heron, K Pearson, I Scott and S Waterston.

### **In attendance**

Cllr P Dowell  
G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)

### **1) Apologies for absence**

TC reported that an apology for absence had been received from Cllr S Reilly (family commitment). Committee resolved to recommend that the absence be approved.

### **2) Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3) Public participation**

There were no matters raised.

### **4) Community Grant Award**

Committee resolved to recommend approval of the Community Grant Award application received from Hetton Buddies for the sum of £ 491.31 for the purchase of sensory equipment.

### **5) Purchase of a lap top computer**

TC introduced the report and reiterated that prices were valid at the time of receipt of the quotations but may be subjected to change due to stock availability.

Following a query from a Member, TC confirmed that the quotations did not include ICT support, and that the manufacturer warranty covered hardware faults only.

After consideration, Committee disregarded the quotation from supplier A as the machine was not of a compatible specification.

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### **Item 5 cont ...**

Committee resolved that:

The quotation received from supplier B be accepted and Town Clerk should place an order without delay

and,

In the event of the price not being able to be honoured, TC should, in liaison with the Chairman seek an alternative best deal within the budget allocation of £1000.00.

### **6) Procurement of a new website**

TC introduced the item and explained that quotations had been obtained from the current supplier and two companies with experience of providing accessible websites to the local council sector.

After discussion Committee resolved to recommend that:

The quote from the existing supplier be ruled out due to high headline costs;

Due to differing pricing structures and approaches from the other potential suppliers, Cllrs R Elvin and I Scott to meet with TC to identify queries and seek clarification;

and

TC seek a quote from an additional supplier for the purpose of further comparison.

### **7) Insurance renewal**

TC introduced the item and explained that a third quotation was awaited.

At the suggestion of TC, Committee resolved to recommend that this item be deferred to full Council.

### **8) Multi agency partnership initiative**

TC reported that he had sought a progress update from SCC, but no further details were available.

TC reported that a commitment had been given by Northumbria Police in a pre-meeting ahead of October Full Council that the Town Council would be a key partner, accordingly, Committee resolved to recommend that a request be made to SCC for the Town Council to have formal Member representation in the governance arrangements of the new body.

### **9) Welcome Back Fund**

TC referred to the response received from SCC to the query made about engagement with the Town Council. TC reported that he had also spoken with the responsible SCC officer who had advised that funding was targeted towards temporary initiatives and projects.

The Chairman advised that this was contrary to his understanding of the fund guidelines; a view shared by TC.

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### **Item 9 cont ...**

Following discussion, Committee resolved to recommend that:

TC feedback to SCC the Town Council's disappointment at the lack of engagement as expected of principal authorities by DLUHC;

and,

Identify a project to update signage in Hetton town centre to encourage local shopping.

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Signed:

Date: