

## FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the VIRTUAL **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** meeting held on Thursday 22 April 2021, at 7.00 p.m.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors Francis (Chairman) Backhouse, Blackwell, Harris, Hill, Munn and Poile

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Tracy Kelly (Town Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – Councillor Clay (Family matters)
2. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS** – None
3. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION** – No members of the public were present. No Press were present.
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** - The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 March 2021 were approved by Full Council at its meeting on 25 March 2021.
5. **ACCOUNTS**
  - a) **Outstanding cheques** – Members **NOTED** the previously signed cheque lists.
  - b) **Financial Statements** – Members **NOTED** the income and expenditure from 1 March to 31 March 2021.
  - c) **Financial Summary** – Members **NOTED** the summary from 1 March to 31 March 2021.
6. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
  - a) **West Kent Mediation** - Members **NOTED** the application for funding received but requested that the Town Clerk ask West Kent Mediation for more evidence of the work carried out for Southborough and High Brooms residents before making a decision. The Town Clerk would report back to a future Committee when the information had been obtained.
7. **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS** - It was proposed that during the consideration of the following items, the public and press shall be temporarily excluded.  
(Standing Order 3 (c)): -

These items are considered confidential for the following reason(s)  
Information relating to the financial and personnel affairs of the Council.

  - a) **Staff Wages** - Members **NOTED** the staff salaries for March 2021
  - b) **Staffing Matters** – Members **AGREED** to the Town Clerk seeking further advice from South East Employers in respect to a revaluation of the staffing roles which she would report back to committee for decision and progression. Members would consider again pay rises after it received the further information from South East Employers.

- c) **Investment Policy and Strategy** – Members discussed the updating of the Councils Investment Policy and its on-going future investments. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk seek additional advice surrounding the Councils investments from a specialist investment provider and return the advice to Committee for further consideration and agreement. It was felt important to ensure that any investment proposal also considered making sure that the investment was made to an ethical provider.
- d) **Sale of Old allotment site Speldhurst Road** – Members **NOTED** the completion statement on the sale of the Old allotment site, Speldhurst Road, Southborough
- c) **Southborough Civic Centre Operations** – Members **NOTED** the ongoing Centres Operations.
- d) **Southborough Civic Centre Finances** – Members discussed the ongoing financial concerns surrounding Civic Centre.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.40.

CHAIRMAN