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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL F&GP COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25th October 2023 in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex,

**PRESENT** Cllr J O’Brien (Chair), Cllrs P Jones, A Khan and G Sell

**ATTENDING** Mrs Emma Philbrick – Deputy Clerk

 2 members of the public (1 via Zoom)

**223 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Caton – Holiday, Cllr Ghosh – Out of the country due to a family emergency.

 It was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** To accept the apologies of absence from Cllrs Caton and Ghosh

 The Clerk, Ruth Clifford also gave her apologies.

 No apologies were received from Cllr Hogg

**224 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -** None

**225 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH SPETEMBER 2023**

 **RESOLVED** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2023 as a true and accurate account.

**226 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

183 – Make a formal complaint to our Essex County Councillor and escalate to the Chief Executive if necessary.

 183 – Request a site visit from representatives of UDC and ECC

 When talking to the Environment Agency about the new poles, the Agency stated they would be speaking to Essex Highways about their lack of maintenance. We await the outcome of this discussion.

**227 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, CLLR JOHN O’BRIEN**

Attached

 Cllr Sell said he agreed with the statement about the flight of local councils but for accuracy, it is ok for local councils to have increased investments in existing projects. This is allowed by the Government and in his opinion, the increased investment of Chesterford Research Park is a wise move as the investment has a financial benefit for the District.

**228 LIGHTING**

**a) TO RECEIVE AN OUTAGE REPORT**

The Deputy Clerk advised that a light outside the Dog & Duck was reported today and a light in Stoney Common at the end of last week. Two lights are out on Chapel Hill and one of these is a UKPN issue that we are waiting to be resolved.

**b) TO RECEIVE A GENERAL REPORT ON LIGHTING AND ANY UPDATES ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

Cllr O’Brien advised that we are continuing with the Christmas lights as they were last year, and we are also hoping to provide some lighting at the fountain using the electricity supply rather than relying on batteries.

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**229 FINANCE**

**a) TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PAYMENTS**

The list of payments was checked against the invoices by Cllr Jones before the start of the meeting. A couple of questions were asked and then the list of payments was approved.

 Cllr Jones asked if Cllr Sell, as a District Councillor, could ask Uttlesford about the money previously set aside to combat flooding. As Stansted has previously been number one in the district for flooding, are we entitled to some of this.

**b) TO RECEIVE THE INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2023/24**

This was circulated to members with the agenda and members confirmed receipt.

**c) TO NOTE THE CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2022/23**

This was noted by members.

**230 TO CONSIDER GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Three applications had been received and were circulated to members with the agenda.

 Application one – She’s Ready Stansted

 A representative of She’s Ready Stansted had permission from the Chair to address the meeting and explain what the project was about and how valuable she felt it was for the community. She gave a handout to members highlighting some of the key facts

 Having been proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Sell, it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** To award a grant of £1,000 to She’s Ready Stansted

 Application two – Home-Start Essex

 Having been proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Sell, it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** To award a grant of £250 to Home-Start Essex

 Members also commented that Home-Start should apply for grants from all local councils in Uttlesford.

 Application three – Touchpoint – Kids Xmas Gift Appeal

 Having been proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Sell, it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** To award a grant of £1,500 to Touchpoint for their Kids Xmas Gift Appeal

**231 CRAFTON GREEN HOUSE – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES ON THE COMMUNITY BUILDINGS**

The Chair advised that discussion are currently taking place about knocking through from the Day Centre to Crafton Green House. Some feedback has been received from structural engineers but that we were awaiting the final recommendations.

 Thanks to the Stansted Surgery, talks also are taking place about a locker storage for prescriptions being located at Crafton Green now that Boots have announced their closure. Cllr Jones has met with Paul Chambers to discuss where this would be best situated if it did go ahead. Talks are also ongoing regarding the funding of this.

 After discussions, members asked for the Full Council to consider writing to Boots and voice our regret as a community at their decision and to give thanks to the staff and wish them well for the future.

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**232 WINDMILL – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES**

Nothing to report but a reminder that Santa will be at the Windmill on Saturday 9th December.

**233 YOUTH MATTERS – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES**

Nothing to update

**234 STAFF MATTERS – TO RECEIVE ANY AVAILABLE UPDATES**

Nothing to update

Meeting closed at 8.22pm

ACTION POINTS

229 – Cllr Sell to ask UDC about money previously set aside to combat flooding

231 – Ask Full Council to consider writing to Boots