



78. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following:

a) An email from John Harvey HCC Strategic Transport regarding re-imburement of costs:

*“Thank you for your email requesting a contribution towards the COVID-19 measures that the Town Council provided in the town. As you are aware, the funding provided to the County Council for the introduction of these types of schemes was limited and we fully allocated this to delivering priority schemes around the County. Where other authorities wished to fund their own initiatives, we were able to support these by providing officer advice and technical support as well as waiving all licence fees. I therefore am unable to support your request for a contribution towards your costs in installing and removing the COVID-19 scheme in New Milton Town Centre, which was an initiative proposed by the Town Council.”*

Members asked the Clerk to contact the Leader of HCC regarding their peremptory reply.

b) An email from Insp Michael Minnock regarding New Milton being ‘downgraded’

I am sorry to hear that some of the community feel that way. I do not share their concerns although I respect how they feel. The estate strategy for the Constabulary is managed by the office for the police and crime commissioner. I would encourage any concerns are directed to them as this re-positioning falls part of their wider estates and front counter strategy.

Members asked the Clerk to contact the Hampshire PCC regarding their Estate Strategy.

79. PRE-BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

The Town Clerk referred to likely inflation rates next year and members agreed 2% be used for general increases when preparing our budgets for next year.

There was a suggestion of earmarking Capital Expenditure funds within a 5-year rolling maintenance plan, noting £120k was earmarked for upgrades to the Ashley Pavilion last year, and the same amount has been set aside for similar work at Fawcetts Field this year, and it could be the level of investment required at other sites over the next few years. Certainly, it was pointed out that Fawcetts Field was officially opened 28 years ago today and requires further investment as far as its ageing infrastructure is concerned.

The Town Clerk confirmed no changes are planned as far as existing staffing is concerned and that he intended to remain in post for the next 2.5 years.

80. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members considered the delayed implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan and how the Referendum may be postponed further beyond May next year. Members talked about improving our communications, engaging more with our audience, reaching out to stakeholders to get our key messages across more professionally.

81. IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS

Having considered Henry Pavey’s proposal, and in the light of the above, it was agreed to defer this matter until next year, bearing in mind the uncertain Referendum date. Members referred to the strategic training carried out by Henry Pavey and outstanding Action Points which needed to be shared and communicated with all Cllrs. The TDM was asked to put together a presentation for the Town Council on core values and communications.

82. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Budget Meeting on Monday 9 November 2020 at 6.30pm

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the virtual meeting at 3.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution:

Members of the Executive Committee

Town Councillors – For Information

District Councillors C V Ward, J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

Press

Minute	Action Points	Action by date	To be actioned by
77	Anthony Harris to set up an appropriate charity	16 November 2020	Anthony Harris Solicitors
78 a)	Write to Leader of HCC	16 November 2020	Town Clerk
78 b)	Contact Hampshire PCC Michael Lane	16 November 2020	Town Clerk
79	5- year rolling maintenance plan	23 November 2020	Town Clerk/ Estates Manager
81	Presentation to Town Council on core values and communications	16 November 2020	TDM