

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD VIA
ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7PM**

PRESENT: Acting Mayor Cllr R Peter, Cllr A Dixon, Cllr J Jakubowski, Cllr T Dixon, Cllr R Kelly and Clerk Vicky Bradley

107/20: Apologies No apologies were received by the clerk.

108/20: Declarations of Interest: None declared.

It was agreed to move item 4 above item 3 as this could affect the precept requirement.

109/20: To consider employing an additional street cleaner Cllr T Dixon was in favour of this proposal to help assist our current street cleaner so that we can cover more areas of the town and Haverigg. Our current employee is on National Living Wage and this would equate to an additional wage of approximately £10500 per annum and additional pension costs. It maybe that we employ someone who drives so that we can access Haverigg easier so this would incur petrol costs also. It was also discussed about the person being a street cleaner/handyman so that we can save costs on minor repairs. Cllr T Dixon proposed that we place this onto the precept, Cllr Kelly seconded, All Agreed, it was noted that a job specification would be drawn up in the New Year. **Action: To discuss at full council**

110/20: Precept – to give preliminary consideration to the precept requirement for 2021/2022

The clerk had prepared a draft budget sheet for consideration which showed a percentage increase of 4.48%. It was decided that we try and keep our increase to no more than 5% given the current climate and the uncertainty of the economy next year. The committee went through each expenditure heading and noted the following amendments:

To increase the seats and paths figure to £500 from £250 as Cllr T Dixon noted that some benches were in need of replacing

To increase the mayor's allowance to £700 from £600 as Cllr Peter does not drive so may incur additional costs during her time in office

To increase travel to £150 from £100, this covers all councillors who attend public events/training on behalf of the council and if they wish to reclaim costs they can do so.

At the moment we have not allocated to the Millom Disaster Fund, it was asked that we look at the fund to see if any top-up is required.

Project costs to increase from £10,000 to £12,000 to include costs for a new employee

The tennis court monies, it was noted that this money should be moved into a separate account so that it is ring fenced and made available when needed. **Action: Clerk to arrange**

Cllr T Dixon queried the £1649 in civic pride this year, the clerk confirmed that this was the cost of the new street cleaner machine – All ok with that

The clerk also noted that we would need to include electric and water costs for the new office in the next budget. **Action: Clerk to update**

Action: Clerk to update with the amendments and check new percentage increase.

It was agreed to hold a meeting in the New Year to finalise figures for agreement at January's full council meeting.

111/20: To note the agreement to repair the fence around Haverigg Park: This had been agreed via email to repair the fence as it was a Health and Safety risk at a cost of £540 plus VAT.

112/20: To agree to the Playdale quote for Haverigg Park repairs: The revised quote excluding the cushion fall was £1724, it was agreed to go ahead with these repairs as they had been highlighted by the Rospa report. **Action: Clerk to confirm order**

113/20: To agree to purchase/hire Heras Fencing for the play area works: Cllr Jakubowski informed the meeting that the cost to hire the fencing was approx. £1800 including VAT and the cost to buy was approximately £1619 including VAT. A discussion took place about buying and whether we could store around 50 panels, talks have taken place with local builders who would be

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willing to purchase some of the panels after use, but the issue of storing them needs to be looked at. It was asked if the prison may be able to store, **Clerk to ask**, otherwise we go for the renting option. It was **agreed** to go ahead with the option that works out best, with a maximum spend of £1800 plus VAT

The meeting closed at 19.47.

V Bradley, Clerk

Cllr R Peter, Acting Mayor.....