

## NEWTON-WITH-CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the council's standing finance committee meeting held on Thursday 3rd August 2023 commencing on conclusion of the planning committee meeting at 7.15 p.m. in Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall and via Zoom.

Chair: Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman).

Councillors: Jennifer C. Benson, Peter Collins, John Kitchen, Jannette McCormick, Philip Morgan, Benjamin Stephenson, Christopher Whitworth.

Borough/County Councillor: None. Police: None, Member of the public: None.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence: None received.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

The chairman reminded members at the commencement of the meeting that any direct or indirect pecuniary, prejudicial or other interest should be declared in accordance with the requirements of council's Standing Orders and the revised Code of Conduct adopted on 9th November 2012 in compliance with The Localism Act 2011. Accordingly the following direct or indirect, pecuniary, prejudicial or other interest declarations were made; Councillor Beverley Duckworth formally Declared an Interest relating to any Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) agenda items and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Janette McCormick formally Declared an Interest relating to any Friends of Newton Community Park (FoNCP) finance related agenda items and would not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon.

### **3. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS.**

#### **a) Approve invoices for payment.**

List 1

The chairman referred to this item and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following invoices &c be paid.

HSBC	Account maintenance & transaction charges 31st May 2022 to 29th June 2022.	£8.00
Paul Gregory T/a Acer Contracts	Grass cutting operations July 2023	£833.33
	Horticultural features operations July 2023	£872.92
	Vat £341.25	£2047.50
		<u>£2055.50</u>

#### **ii) Invoices submitted at meeting.**

The chairman referred to this item and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following invoices be paid:

*Newton-with-Clifton Village Hall Committee (NWCVHC).	Reimbursement of 2023/24 insurance premium.	£1112.60
Yu Energy Retail Limited	Christmas trees festive lighting electricity charges 01/07/23-31/07/23.	£12.05
		Vat £0.60
		£12.65
		<u>£1125.25</u>

\*The clerk referred to the deferred payment of £1052.59 approved at the meeting held on Thursday 6th July 2023 and the formal NWCVHC request now included broker fees.

The chairman referred to this item and it was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following invoice be paid:

+Friends of Newton Community Park. FoNCP	Lancashire environment fund grant, FoNCP 20% conditional contribution.	<u>£7036.00</u>
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+Councillor Beverley Duckworth (chairman) formally Declared an Interest relating to this items and did not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon. Councillor Janette McCormick formally Declared an Interest relating to this items and did not participate in the discussion or any voting thereon.

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b) Consider quarterly finance report.

Subsequent to enquiries from the chairman the clerk explained;

- i) The reduction in forecast 2023/24 surplus, in comparison to 2022/23, was primarily due to a reduced entitlement to Fylde borough council New Homes Bonus grant.
- ii) Friends of Newton Community park (FoNCP) expenditure is net of any chargeable vat, as is all reported expenditure. There are inherent value added tax complications governing expenditure relating to the s.106 service level agreement between parish council and Fylde borough council. Also these arise from the council's collaborative partnership arrangement with FoNCP. In effect FoNCP being an agent for the council relating to recreational land and equipment which is owned by the council to provide a service for which it is statutorily responsible and using s.106 monies to fund expenditure. Consequently there is a potential for vat on related expenditure being assessed by HM customs and Excise as irrecoverable by the council. To minimise potential complications relating to reclaimable vat FoNCP had been reminded of process options where vat might be recoverable including that as agent, FoNCP place supplier orders in the name of the council, as principal, relating to a service for which the council is statutorily responsible, and FoNCP ensure council name and address detail are included on both the invoice and the order placed with a supplier.
- iii) When the current year parks and open spaces actual and forecast expenditure is zero, compared to previous year budget, because of the change in account analysis, these will be totals only in future reports. Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** the report be approved together with members acknowledging copy bank statements, complementing the report, had been circulated.

Meeting closed at 21:00hrs.

Chairman

7th September 2023