



EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

In accordance with (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020)

Present: Councillors;

Tony Allen, Annette Dunning, Peter Dutton, Anne Fleming, Rosemary Lewis, Karen Prime, Jill Reece, David Thomas, Maureen Took, Jackie Wagner, David Wollweber (Chair).

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Town Clerk), one members of the public.

Minutes

1. Apologies: None
2. Declarations of interest: None
3. Summary of the current offer from ESC: The Council had received and noted the summary of the current offer, clarification of the terms of the offer and supporting financial information. The Clerk explained that at the January monthly meeting, the Council had approved the list of assets (with the addition of the Bramblewood Way verge), the method of paying for these assets, as laid out in the supporting documentation and the original offer from ESC in principle, subject to any further adjustments and negotiations. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the improved offer that Cllrs; Fleming, Lewis and Wollweber had negotiated with Angus Williams since the meeting in January. This improved offer included support payments of £24,066 over four years for the Open spaces maintenance and a one off payment of £13,000 for the demolition costs. It was noted that this was a provisional offer and would be subject to ESC management and Cabinet approval. It was felt that if HTC had already approved the offer then it would stand more chance of being approved by ESC.
4. Transfer of Assets: To consider the increased (provisional) offer of support from ESC for the open spaces, the demolition costs and the terms relating to the transfer of assets (list of assets already agreed). Cllr Lewis had provided supporting financial documents based on the original documents presented to the Council in January which had been updated to reflect the improved offer. Cllr Lewis wished to point out to the Council that the initial grant offer for repairing the windows had been temporarily removed as the Council would need to re-apply again. Cllr Lewis explained to the Council that in her opinion this represented a very good offer and one that HTC should now accept so that the process could finally be completed. The Council had been in negotiations with ESC (previously WDC) for the last five years and had at last now reached a favourable position. Cllr Lewis then proposed and recommended and it was then RESOLVED with 8 in favour and 3 against, that the Council accepts this provisional improved offer from ESC for the transfer of the London Rd building, Park, public toilets and the open spaces (all as previously agreed) to HTC for the total payment of £116,666
5. Correspondence: None
6. Items for the Website/Noticeboard/Newsletters/Library. None