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CREWE
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Operations and Improvements Committee 6:00pm on Weds 10th November 2021

In Attendance:

Cllr Benn Minshall Cllr Dennis Straine – Francis Cllr Nan Walton Cllr Gary Palin
Cllr Alan Coiley

Also Present:

Cllr Tom Dunlop Cllr Hazel Faddes

1. To receive and consider apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Cllr Cosby, Cllr Messent, Cllr Morrissey and Cllr Wye
2. To note declarations of Members' interests.
No interests were declared.
3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Crewe Town Council Meeting held on 21.07.21

Resolved: That the minutes are approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. Public Participation
A period not exceeding 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments. To ensure Covid 19 compliance and safety, attendance numbers will be strictly limited and we request that you seek to follow the meeting on the council's youtube.com channel. You can submit your comments and questions in advance to be read out at the meeting; email townclerk@crewetowncouncil.gov.uk (to arrive by 3pm on Weds 10th November).

Physical attendance at the meeting is currently discouraged due to restrictions and guidance associated with the prevention of the spread of Covid-19. Attendance for public participation may be facilitated via Zoom, if necessary and notified in advance of the meeting.

Questions were not received from the public.

Councillor Dunlop addressed the meeting to thank the committee for agreeing to fund a commemorative plaque, to be installed at Leighton Hospital. He shared the proposed wording which was duly noted.

Councillor Faddes Expressed thanks to the Rangers for their assistance in Crewe East Ward and stated that residents were very pleased with support for the Lansdowne Road play area. She asked that items to be removed could be recycled and that any support to resolve other issues such as planting, reduction of flooding be addressed if possible. She also commented on the impact of the poppies placed on lamp posts on memorial square and concerns about rodents which had been recently seen.

5. To note the year-to-date financial position for the Operations and Improvements Committee. The financial position was duly **noted**.
6. To receive consider matters related to the play area development at Lansdowne Road Play Area.
Members considered the design options and recommendations.

Resolved: To accept design option A.

7. To consider matters relating to the work of the Crewe Rangers.

Members discussed the work of the Rangers and future provision.

Resolved:

To take forward the proposals made:

- i. With the available budget in the Medium-Term Financial Plan, the service can accommodate an additional team member. As this service reaches this level, Consideration of the future scale of the service is required to ensure best efficacy.
 - ii. That current operating model and understood tasks fulfills current expectations.
 - iii. The allocation of the Medium Term Financial Plan budgeted figure seeks to create a supervisory/co-ordinating/senior ranger role
 - iv. That the viability of direct employment of the ranger service is explored.
8. To consider matters related to the Heritage Strategy.
Resolved:
 - i. To approve the heritage budget allocations for the remaining 2021/22 financial year.
 - ii. To nominate Councillor Dennis Straine- Francis as a representative to the Heritage Group, to be ratified at full council.
 9. To consider the draft budget proposal and requirements for 2022/23.
Resolved
To approve the draft budget and delivery plan with a total value of £464,626 for onward recommendation to Finance and Governance Committee for inclusion in Town Council budget 2022/23.

10. *It is recommended that Committee considers a resolution under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and representatives of the press from the meeting during the consideration of Item 11 on the grounds that matter contains sensitive information and by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.*

Resolved:

To exclude the press and representatives of the public from discussion of Christ Church Project by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.

11. To consider matters relating to the Christ Church Project
The meeting was closed to the public and members of the press in order to consider matters from Item.

Resolved:

- i) To appoint specialist legal support from within allocated budget from the Architectural Heritage Fund Grant under the heading Professional Fees
- ii) To phase the appointment of specialist legal support with Phase 1 focussing on advice and Phase 2 focussing on implementation.
- iii) To note the decision to appoint Blackett-Ord to undertake a structural assessment of Christ Church as delegated under item 12 of the O&I meeting on 21 July 2021
- iv) To approve development of an application to the Architectural Heritage Fund for additional development grant funding.

12. To consider the date of the next meeting of Crewe Town Council

Resolved: That the next meeting will be held on **Monday 14th February 2022**

The meeting closed at 19.40 PM

Chair Cllr B. Minshall

Clerk Lindsay Lewis