

REPORT of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee  
held on Thursday 19 December 2019

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Present: Cllr Jayne Stansfield (Chairman)  
Cllr Chris Davies  
Cllr Benj Emmerson (arrived late)  
Cllr Bob Griffin  
Cllr Shirley Holloway  
Cllr Clive Parkinson (arrived late)  
Cllr Angela Symonds  
Cllr Maggie Tyrrell

Louise Powell (Town Clerk)

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**1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Guy Rawlinson (another commitment)  
Cllr Helen Harrison (work commitment)  
Cllr Matthew Stringer (out of Thornbury)

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no member's declarations of interest.

**3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

**4. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF 24 OCTOBER 2019**

The report of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting of 24 October 2019 had been circulated and was noted.

The Clerk reported that a meeting has now been arranged with South Gloucestershire Officers about action on Climate Change for January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 10am in the Town Hall.

**5. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON POLICING MATTERS**

There was no police representative present at the meeting but the October crime statistics for Thornbury had been circulated and the November crime statistics were tabled, and both were noted.

(Cllr Parkinson arrived)

**6. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

- (a) To consider letter and associated documents from Avon Pension Fund regarding the 2019 Valuation results

(Cllr Emmerson arrived)

The Clerk reported that after seeking advice from a range of sources she would recommend that the Council adopt the default position in response to the questions from Avon Pension Fund. This position was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Parkinson and all were in favour.

The Clerk reported that this will mean a reduction in the budget of several thousand. She will wait for clarification from Avon Pension Fund and then adjust the draft budget to reflect this.

(b) To consider a request from the Environment Committee

The request was noted and it was proposed by Cllr Emmerson that the Council will use reserves to pay the £11,102.51 bill from South Gloucestershire Council for the planting, he further proposed that the Council allow for an estimated figure of £4000 for a scheme in Pullins Green be placed in next years budget. This was seconded by Cllr Symonds and all were in favour.

(c) To approve the Accounts for Payment

The Accounts for Payment were tabled, and Cllr Griffin proposed that they be approved for payment. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Symonds and unanimously agreed.

**ACCOUNTS PAID OUT OF MEETING**

**Ebay	CCTV Control	102.95
** Amazon	CCTV + Monitor	479.45

**ACCOUNTS NOW DUE FOR PAYMENT – 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

**Central Services**

Lemon Gazelle CIC	Thornbury Neighbourhood Plan	250.00
Corona Energy	Gas Bill – Town Hall / Nov-Dec 19	800.80
South Glos Council	Payroll Services July-Sept 19	279.66
JCW Window Cleaning	Town Hall Window Cleaning	55.00
Nina Flint	Accounts Assistance	570.20
ALCA	LCA 3 Course for LP & WS	80.00
*The Poppy Appeal	Donation for Remembrance Wreath	70.00

**Playing Fields & Cemetery**

Abbey Loos	Portable Toilet	51.60
Advanced Plumbing & Heating	Repair Leak in MPF Flat	298.80
Mole Country Stores	Cutting and Mowing Line	30.73
Corona Energy	Gas Bill – Kington Lane / Nov-Dec 19	174.99
Rio Pool Construction Ltd	Winterise Splash Pad	198.72
*South Glos Council	Open Space Licence – Osprey Park	150.00
Prestige Flooring Ltd	Supply and Fit Vinyl – Pavilion Flat	403.00
Consortium	Cleaning Supplies	87.53
Thornbury MOT Centre	MOT – Class 7	50.00

**Land & Property**

Corona Energy	Gas Bill 4 Chapel St / Nov-Dec 19	140.09
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## **Environment**

The Chantry Community Centre

Remembrance Day

41.50

(d) To consider a draft Council budget for 2020/21

The Clerk tabled a draft budget that had been discussed with the working group. The Clerk highlighted that the budget does not yet show the savings for the phone and broadband contract or the pension savings mentioned earlier. She pointed out that the current draft will leave the Armstrong Hall with low reserves.

Cllr Parkinson proposed that the Council should ask the Hall to look to raise an extra £10,000 income by improving the marketing of the asset and reviewing the fees and charges. He stated that the Council would also look to increase the grant to the Hall by £10,000. This was seconded by Cllr Emmerson and all agreed.

The Environment Committee budget for 'green projects' was discussed as to whether this should be shown in the budget as CIL. It was decided to leave it as part of the Council budget until the savings were shown and this would be considered again in January.

(e) To consider the current and future CIL programme

The programme was discussed and noted.

**7. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

Cllr Parkinson asked if the Clerk could raise a concern with the Police, that it has been reported that scooters and motorcycles are being used on the footpath that links Queens Walk with Manor Walk to the new Park Farm Estate and this is potentially becoming a safety issue for pedestrians and young people playing on the green area. The Clerk agreed to raise this with Police in the first instance.

**8. TO CONSIDER COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS:**

(a) NALC consultation on 'Strengthening Police Powers to tackle unauthorised encampments'

It was agreed to defer this until the January Committee meeting to give Councillors time to read the Home Office proposals.

(b) South Gloucestershire Council's draft alcohol strategy 2020-2025

Cllr Emmerson felt that the Strategy was sensible. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond approving the Strategy.

**9. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY**

The Clerk raised concerns that the Composting Site has Heras Fencing surrounding it and states it is now shut until March. It was asked if this could be put on the Environment Committee's next agenda.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that there was a photo for the opening of Osprey Park being taken at 2.30pm on Friday.

The Clerk informed Cllrs that unfortunately the Office would need to be shut on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> due to Staff shortages, it would open again on Christmas Eve until Noon and would then be shut for the Christmas period until 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. We have displayed this on Facebook and the Website and there would be a notice in the Windows. All undertakers have been given emergency details as normal.

10. *To resolve under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

This was proposed and unanimously agreed.

11. **TO DISCUSS LEASING ISSUES**

The Clerk reported that there was a need to gain a valuation of some Council land. It was proposed by Cllr Emmerson that the Clerk seek quotes including one from South Gloucestershire Council, this was seconded by Cllr Tyrrell and all agreed.

Other leasing issues were discussed, and the Clerk informed the Council that these will be on the agenda for Full Council in the near future.

12. **TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUOTATIONS**

- (a) New shoring for the Cemetery and associated training

The Clerk presented the quotes it was agreed to go with the lowest quote and to include the additional training. All to come from the Health and Safety budget. This was proposed by Cllr Parkinson, Seconded by Cllr Symonds and all agreed.

- (b) Energy Supply

The Clerk presented the quotes for Gas. It was proposed by Cllr Emmerson that the Council should go with Good Energy providing we could check their certificates and experience. This was seconded by Cllr Symonds and all were in favour.