



14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Councillor,

This is to inform you that the meeting of the Resources and Policy Committee will be held via Zoom **7.30pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020**, to which you are summoned, for the transaction of the following business. You can join the Zoom Meeting here

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81143397213?pwd=VmRVZGJER0FMc0VuUDIGbmpHbkN3UT09>

Meeting ID: 811 4339 7213  
Passcode: 549806

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. A. Lloyd".

C. A. Lloyd  
Town Clerk

### **AGENDA**

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence, if any.

**3. QUESTION TIME**

The first fifteen minutes of the Meeting will be given over to questions from members of the public on issues relating to the work of the Committee.

#### 4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS**

Members are reminded to make any declarations of disclosable pecuniary and/or personal interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda.

You should declare at this part of the meeting or when it becomes apparent your interest by stating:

- (a) the item you have the interest in
- (b) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest and the nature of the interest, whereupon you will not participate in the discussion or vote on that matter, unless dispensation has been requested and granted
- (c) whether it is a personal interest and the nature of the interest

Members are also reminded of their obligation to report any amendment to their Register of Interests to the Town Clerk as soon as it becomes apparent.

#### 5. **MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (copy attached).

#### 6. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT**

#### 7. **HEAD OF OPERATIONS' REPORT**

To consider the report of the Head of Operations (Income and Expenditure attached)

#### 8. **REVIEW CAPITAL PROJECT APPROACH**

To consider the report held over from Council on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (amended) and the way forward for this Council following Covid19's effect on its finances

#### 9. **FIXED ASSETS 2019/20**

To consider the list of fixed Assets as corrected and recirculated on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and attached separately.

#### 10. **AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

To consider amending Paragraph 11(h) to;

- h) When it is to enter into a contract of less than £25,000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials, works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a) the Clerk or RFO shall obtain 3 quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply); where the value is below **£5,000** and above £100 the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates. Otherwise, Regulation 10.3 above shall apply. **Contracts valued between £5,000 and**

**£24,999 shall require consultation with and concurrence by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Resources and Policy Committee and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To consider holding monthly meetings for the foreseeable future.

**Members:** Cllr T. Wiltshire, Cllr Margaret Eames-Petersen, Cllr Brennan, Cllr MacKay, Cllr Percival

**Ex-officio voting Members:** Cllrs Brandon and Juggins

**For Information:** All other Members of the Council.

## AGENDA ITEM 8

### REVIEW OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Council has £462,120 as revenue reserves (30% of £1,540,402 expenditure as agreed at Council on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020). £88,000 (s.106) earmarked reserves which leaves £99,880 for capital reserves at present.

As Members know the de Havilland Grange Working Group is looking at potential designs and plans for the site with a view to reporting back to Council and then going out to public consultation. It is not expected that any works will commence until after 2023.

Lemsford Village Hall Changing Rooms require refurbishment and prior to lockdown the Council were going to ask architects to re-draw plans and resubmit them for planning approval. The previous scheme had been priced in excess of £600,000. Cllr Brandon has spent a lot of his time with the architects developing his vision for the hall and changing rooms, however, as the Football Foundation have indicated that Lemsford would not be a priority site for full grant funding as it only caters for adult male football, should this Council now be considering refurbishing the existing changing rooms and applying to the Football Foundation for a matching grant of £25,000?

It is now being suggested that this Council progressing capital schemes without using any funds and stops progress once any expenditure may be incurred until such time that the Council's financial position is better secured.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council has £800,000 funding towards a football ground in Hatfield.

The Council has received legal advice that any form of partnership working would need to be advertised on Contract Finder, we cannot progress further with the current architect's partners without going onto contracts finder.

Whilst investing in the Leisure Centre's future is acceptable, should the Town Council be disposing of its land asset to do so? The housing market is uncertain due to Covid19 despite being bolstered by the stamp duty holiday from the Government. The Council would be risking tax-payers' money if it continued with a joint venture partnership in the present climate.

Other schemes put forward to spend the £800,000 lodged with the Borough also build upon the Leisure Centre and arguably includes an inherent cost that the Council Tax payer will be expected to burden even if only in the first few years whilst the football ground proves that it can become profitable (or not) without diminishing the Leisure Centre's income streams.

It is now being suggested that this Council progressing capital schemes without using any funds and stops progress once any expenditure may be incurred until such time that the Council's financial position is better secured.

Report by Town Clerk – Carrie Lloyd