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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON 5 FEBRUARY 2019 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Cole – In the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council

Cllrs Benner, Collingwood, Gallagher, Montague, Wallington & Vassiliou.

Voting Members: 7

EA1452/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Kaur

The Chairman advised that under Standing Order 9.1.15, 'to consider a report and/or recommendations made by an employee, professional advisor, expert or consultant', the Clerk would introduce an item "E&A Budget Tracker 2019/20". This item would become item EA1460/19 meaning Closure would change to EA1461/19.

EA1453/19 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.

EA1454/19 Representations from the Public

There were no members of the public present.

EA1455/19 Minutes

Members had no comments regarding the minutes.

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

EA1456/19 Matters Arising

A Councillor enquired whether there had been any progress with installing the flower planters on Watford Road. The Clerk advised that no progress had been made.

EA1457/19 Works List

Members had no comments regarding the Works List.

Resolved:

- That the Works List for February 2019 is noted.

EA1458/19 E&A Budget 2018/19

Members made the following comments on the budget tracker sheet:

Quiz Night – Cllr Benner advised that the Quiz Night that would be held on 30 March 2019 in the Village Hall, Croxley Green Community Centre. Tickets would be priced at £10.00 and would include a fish and chip/vegetarian option supper or similar.

Members noted the progress against budgeted items.

EA1459/19 Arboriculture Survey of Weston Wood

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk referred to the supporting paper circulated with the Agenda. As there has been no previous tree management on the site, it was necessary to get external assistance to undertake a survey of the trees to determine works priority.

The Clerk continued that although a fixed quote had been obtained for a ground based survey it was considered that this would not be sufficiently detailed in regard to the health of the trees. A second company has been approached which on a day rate basis would provide more comprehensive information. The company would also be able to undertake sonic testing of the large beech tree to assess the best way to manage the tree. It is estimated that the survey would be no more than three days at a cost of £900 excluding the sonic testing. The company, Glendale, would also be in a position to provide aerial arboreal works on those trees which the Rangers do not currently have the equipment to undertake. This option is preferred as the company would be familiar with the site.

Accordingly, it is recommended that a budget of £2,000 be made to cover the necessary survey, sonic testing and initial works on larger trees. The Clerk advised that financial provision of £2,000 is available within the Finance and Administration budget for Contract Maintenance (code 4038/103).

Following a question from a Councillor that there had been only one quote received and the second was on a daily rate was this sufficient to meet financial scrutiny. The Clerk advised that for works under £2,000 he has to strive where practical to obtain three estimates but irrespective of this the proposed works are of a specialist nature and therefore excluded from other provisions.

A Councillor asked that if the contractor was on a day rate would the Council be liable for costs when they were unable to attend the site. The Clerk advised that it is precisely why a day rate is favoured as if they are not on site, they don't get paid.

Resolved:

- That the company Glendale undertake the necessary survey and works to a value up to £2,000;
- That £2,000 be vired from the Finance and Administration budget (4038/103 – Contract Maintenance) to fund the works and that the request for the virement be referred to the next Finance and Administration Committee meeting for approval.

EA1460/19 E&A Budget Tracker Report 2019/20

The Chairman advised that this item was being introduced under Standing Order 9.1.15 by the Clerk as mentioned at the beginning of the meeting.

The Clerk advised that given the obvious success of the 2018/19 budget tracker reporting as discussed earlier in the meeting as we were approaching the new financial year and its associated new budget items it was prudent for members to note the new 2019/20 budget tracker report, a copy of which was made available to members to view. It was not the intent to have any detailed discussion on this as the financial year had not started but the 2019/20 budget tracker would now appear on all future Agendas throughout the year.

EA1461/19 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:24pm