

LEEK TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held
Tuesday 16th March 2021

Chair: Cllr. L. Swindlehurst

Present: Cllrs: Benefer, Cawley, Coleman, Emery, Johnson, M. Swindlehurst, Molson, Ottewell, Wales, Wood & Worthington

Two members of the public were in attendance.

69. Minutes of the General Purposes Meeting held 16th February were received for Chairman's signature.

70. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests and consideration for the granting of Dispensations Cllr. Benefer declared an interest in 71(i).

71. Monthly reports/updates:

- i) Allotments – Cllr. Coleman's report was received. It was stated that residents of Leek are given priority for allotments and that the tenancy agreement has been reviewed and updated. Councillors' comments included the following:
Priority should be given to residents who do not have a garden.
A video could be made of the allotment sites for the website.
Councillors will visit the sites in the Autumn.
The annual Leek Allotment Association's Show will take place remotely on 21st August 2021.
- ii) Events – Cllr. Matt Swindlehurst's report was received. Several community groups have expressed an interest in events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.
- iii) War Memorials Committee – It was agreed that Cllr. Benefer and Cllr. Worthington would act as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, until the Council's AGM in May 2021. The next meeting would take place on 23rd March 2021.
- iv) Climate Change – The group is looking at areas suitable for rewilding and the use of pesticides in the town.
- v) Leek Health Campaign – The report was received and Cllr. Wood thanked Chris Taylor for all his hard work with the campaign.
- vi) Leek Twinning – Remote meetings are being held with Este residents and a session regarding Leek Embroidery is planned. It was noted that a tapestry has been made by Leek's Survive Together.
- vii) Russell Street – It was resolved that the landscaping project would go out to tender. The proposed design has been sent to Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for approval and SMDC has raised no objection.
- viii) Neighbourhood Plan – A remote meeting will be held with Urban Vision and an additional grant from Locality would be applied for.

72. Finance/Audit

- a) **Payment of Accounts** In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 section 5 (150), the following were accepted for payment and the total is £6,964.04
- b) **Financial Statement** The Financial Statement and Financial Report for the 11 months to 28th February 2021 were received.
- c) **Internal Audit** - The scope of the internal audit for 2020/21 would be to comply with the requirements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. It was resolved to appoint JDH Business Services Ltd, who carried out the internal audit in 2019/20. The cost would be £388.50.

73. To receive items for information To report matters for information not on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.

- i) It was resolved that the lower quote of £1,033.00 would be accepted for the planting of the summer containers. SMDC has confirmed the annual donation of £5,000 has been approved. Councillors' comments included:

The town council could be responsible for all the town centre summer planting. However, an additional maintenance budget would be needed from SMDC.

A colour scheme would be good.

Advice could be obtained from the volunteer who is helping with the Russell Street scheme.

An Open Garden Scheme would be good.

- ii) It was stated that the report regarding the future use of the Trestle Market should be made public.
- iii) The Mayor would discuss with the clerk the timescale regarding the appointment of an administrative assistant.

74. Bank House - A final inspection of Bank House would be undertaken and the external painting would be carried out when the weather improves. It was noted that rates are not charged if a Listed building is vacant.

Chairman.....

Date.....