

Aylesford Parish Council

Finance Advisory Sub Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 November 2019

Present: Councillor Shelley (Chairman) and Councillors Balcombe, Beadle, Ms Dorrington, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Ludlow, Ms Oyewusi, Ms Papagno, Rillie, Smith, Walker, Williams, and Wright.

In Attendance: Neil Harris (Clerk) Melanie Randall (Assistant Clerk and Finance Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Base and Winnett.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of Absence from Councillors Base (personal commitment) and Wright (personal commitment), were received, and the reasons for absence agreed.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest additional to those contained in the Register of Members Interests.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 October 2019

It was **Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Section 137 Donation Requests

4.1 – Donation in lieu of Christmas Cards - The Clerk reported that the Council only sent out electronic Christmas cards and that the savings from this was given as donation to a Charity chosen by the Chairman of the Council. This year he had chosen Air Ambulance. It was **Agreed** that a donation of £75 be made to the Air Ambulance.

4.2 – Kent Community Rail Partnership – The Clerk reported that a request for grant aid had been received from the Kent Community Rail Partnership who relied totally on contributions to support the work they do in promoting the use of the Medway Valley Line

that served the Aylesford parish area. It was **Agreed** that a donation of £100 be made to the Kent Community Rail Partnership.

5. Hall Grant/Loans

The Clerk reported that there were no requests for any Hall Grants or Loans.

6. Section 137 Micro Grant Requests

The Clerk reported that there were no requests for any Section 137 Micro Grant Requests.

7. Internal Audit Report

The Clerk reported the Internal Audit Report had been received and it had highlighted no issues of concern for the Council.

8. Banking Arrangements

The Clerk reported that following the decision to look at alternative banking arrangements in respect of a current account to replace the existing account with the Metro Bank which had arisen from concerns being expressed regarding the viability of the Metro Bank and a possible collapse of the Bank. The Clerk had looked at the mainstream banks which all offered similar products but in particular looked at NatWest with whom the Council had previously banked. The account which replicated the dual authorisation model which the Council currently used, and which was very important that this was retained, would lead to charges based on the last years transactions of approximately £525. This compared to no charges from the Metro bank. However, the sub committee felt that with the increasing concerns over the viability of the Metro Bank that it be **Agreed** that the Council would transfer all of its accounts out of the Metro Bank and set up a new current account with the NatWest taking into account the expected level of charges reported to the sub committee.

9. Duration of Meeting

8.50pm to 9.10pm