



Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of a Special Full Council held on Thursday 4 February 2021 at 4.30 pm.

Present:

Councillors: W Taylor (Mayor), M Richardson (Deputy Mayor), A Cartie, K Nisbet, A Parsons, J R Potts, J Reid, S Stanger

Officers: Joseph Hughes, Town Clerk, Malcolm Wilkinson, Deputy Town Clerk, Maureen Hawthorne, Committee Clerk, Alison McCabe, Office Manager

Others Present: 0

Members of the Public:

Invited Guests: 0

1	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Councillors: E Anderson Smith, D Carr, L Rickerby</p>
2	<p>Disclosure of Interests and the Grant of any Dispensations</p> <p>None.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Thursday 14 January 2021 Part I and II</p> <p><u>Public Question Time, question 5 – Office Accommodation Costs</u></p> <p>Councillor Potts took the opportunity to expand on the response to this question as it was not made clear that the rental cost is not £75,000 as quoted. It is in fact £35,350 per annum and is comparable with other office accommodation in the area. Business rates and utility bills etc take the final figure to approximately £60,000.</p>
4	<p>Actions from Full Council held on Thursday 14 January 2021</p>
4.1	<p>Working Group to be convened to discuss suggestions from members on how to move forward with Operation Elf.</p>

	<p>This item was removed from the agenda as it is covered in Decision Report 2.</p> <p><u>Private Sector Housing Strategy 2021-2023 – Consultation</u></p> <p>The Mayor highlighted this as the closing date for comments is 14 February 2021. Councillor Potts said he will be sending a comment that a Stock Condition Survey is essential and asked members to send any comments they wish to make to the Committee Clerk before the closing date.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Decision Report 1</p> <p>School Requests</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that this matter was raised at the Full Council on 14 January 2021. Further enquires were made by the Events Co-ordinator and the response from schools is that no assistance is required at this time. Members noted the additional information received and agreed this will not preclude the schools from applying for assistance under the new Covid Scheme.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Decision Report 2</p> <p><u>Covid Issues and Requests</u></p> <p>Members considered the recommendation outlined in the report and RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To hold Emergency Full Council meetings to approve requests for funding during times of Covid. A meeting can be called giving 3 days notice as permitted in Standing Orders. • A budget of £50,000 will be allocated initially. • There will be a limit of £5,000 per application, subject to Council consideration. • Applications would have to meet existing or new criteria that the issues have arisen as a result of Covid related matters or in the event of any future concern.

7	<p>Requests for Funding</p> <p>1. <u>Briardale House</u></p> <p>A request for £2,763 to continue to assist with the delivery of meals in the community until April 2021.</p> <p>2. <u>Operation Elf</u></p> <p>A request for £500 to purchase shelving for their temporary accommodation in Port of Blyth.</p> <p>3. <u>The Dales School</u></p> <p>A request for £5,100 towards the Railway Centre Project to site a "school train" on tracks within the school premises. This will be used for a variety of projects including a community library.</p>
8	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 13 May 2021. If the current restrictions continue this will be an electronic meeting.</p>
9	<p>PART II</p> <p>Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.</p> <p>Requests for Funding – discussion and decisions</p>

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor W Taylor (Mayor)
 Councillor M Richardson
 Councillor E Anderson-Smith
 Councillor D Carr
 Councillor A Cartie
 Councillor K Ellis
 Councillor K Nisbet
 Councillor A Parsons
 Councillor J Potts
 Councillor J Reid
 Councillor L Rickerby

BTC Full Council – Thursday 4 February 2021

(Mayor's Initials)

Councillor S Stanger
Councillor G Thompson
Councillor G Webb