

FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
11th MAY 2020
11:15

Present:

Mr D Earl, Chairman

Mr J Dent

Ms A Burgess

Mr M Dean

Mr C Harris

Mr A Muter, Chief Executive (CE)

Mrs E A Maurice, Acting Head of Finance (AHoF)

Mrs E O'Toole, Treasury Assistant/Minutes (Treasury)

In attendance: Mr C Brock, Director of Business Development (DBD); President W Tate

Apologies: Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor (SFA)

25/2020

Matters Arising

25.1 Letters to Banks Email correspondence with Mike Smith, Senior Relationship Director of NatWest Guernsey, tabled and noted. The Chairman advised that just prior to the lock-down, Mike Smith and Benedict Jones from NatWest Guernsey visited the island and met with himself to discuss the local banking issues, as summarised in the correspondence. **Noted**

25.2 Notice of Offer – Confidential Item – see confidential annexure.

25.3 Alderney Ambulance Service – update The CE advised that a report, currently in draft form, is being prepared on the three options for consideration at a future Policy & Finance Committee (P&F) meeting.

The Chairman queried when the report is likely to be considered by P&F and the CE advised that it will depend on the availability of capacity to complete the work. **Noted**

26/2020

Revenue Account

26.1 Draft Accounts 2019 (subject to audit) – States of Alderney – Draft Financial Statements – see confidential annexure.

26.2 Budget update The AHoF advised that there is no further update on the budget forecast since the last meeting however it should be noted that April management accounts have been produced and budget holder meetings will take place this week therefore we will be more aware of likely changes that have occurred in the past month. **Noted**

It was noted that Property Transfer Duty likely to be higher than indicated in the draft revised budget due to property sales still continuing with more in the offing, as noted from a report later in the agenda. Furthermore, the Capital Programme for the year is also being reviewed in conjunction with budget discussions. Any further feedback will be reported back to the Committee at a future meeting. **Noted**

Members thanked the AHoF for the work on this thus far.

27/2020

Delegated Items – Grants

27.1 Grant request – Alderney Museum application form, Accounts 2019 and recommendation from Treasury tabled and considered.

Members were supportive of continuing grant funding to the museum at this time however raised queries with regards to the contribution from Alderney Society. In particular, the Committee should be aware of the financial position and reserves of the Society when considering the request for grant aid.

The Committee requested the AHoF to clarify this with the Alderney Museum and report back.

AHoF/DEFERRED

27.2 Grant request – Alderney Football Club application form, Accounts 2019 and recommendation from Treasury tabled and considered. The Chairman advised that this is part of a large project by the Alderney Football Club for improvement of the changing room facilities, the multi-purpose pitch suitable for a wider range of sports and upgrading of facilities on the second floor which includes the bar area.

Members are fully supportive of the Club and what they are proposing to do and although sympathetic, a much more detailed proposal/ application is required in order to consider an application of this size.

It was agreed to refer the application, and further supporting documentation received, to the SFA for review so that he can liaise directly with the applicant.

SFA/DEFERRED

27.3 Summary of Grants & Subsidies 2020 to date tabled and noted. The AHoF gave a brief review of the grants paid to date. **Noted**

The Chair requested that the Director of Tourism liaise with the organiser of the Alderney Performing Arts Festival to discuss their grant allocation.

AHoF

28/2020

Leases & Contracts

28.1 Trinity House Store paper from Treasury dated 17th April 2020 tabled and considered. It was noted that the Harbourmaster had advised that given the current economic climate, he would recommend a one year lease which will allow the ability to do a more thorough rental review before committing to longer term. This was considered by the General Services Committee by email and supported unanimously.

The Committee agreed:-

- a) To fix the rent for the Trinity House Store at an amount of £2,134 for the 12 month period; and**
- b) Consider any recommendations by the Harbourmaster in 12 months' time following his review.**

TREASURY

29/2020

Delegated Items – Coins

29.1 Coin Issue for approval – see confidential annexure.

30/2020

Delegated Items – Stamps

30.1 Stamp Issue for noting – see confidential annexure.

31/2020

Economic Development Reserve / Island Economy

31.1 EDR Summary & Projects to date Summary as at 30th April 2020 tabled and discussed. The DBD advised that that the CE is reviewing the use of the Fund as part of the Recovery Planning process, and apart from already committed amounts as at the end of April, no further expenditure is being incurred until a full understanding of the financial impact of the current crisis is known. **Noted**

31.2 Kick-starting the Alderney Economy Paper from James Dent dated 4th May 2020 tabled and discussed.

Members discussed at the length the various options for progression of a marina development including the Committee responsibilities for considering any proposals from potential marina developers.

It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Chair of General Services Committee (GSC) inviting him to organise a presentation of the proposal from Gordon Owen at the earliest possible opportunity, and should it not meet the approval of GSC then the matter to be referred back to this Committee to consider an alternate proposal(s).

CHAIRMAN

31.3 Exit from Lockdown Strategy Paper from the Chief Executive dated 5th May 2020 tabled and discussed. The CE briefly discussed the Framework document produced by the Committee for Health & Social Care, for lifting the COVID-19 restrictions in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Members stated that greater communication of this framework would be a welcomed by the public as there seem to be uncertainty and confusion. **Noted**

It was agreed that the Alderney Pandemic Emergency Committee should note the process for seeking exemptions and identify whether it has any priorities for exemptions that it would like to recommend to Policy and Finance Committee.

ALDERNEY PANDEMIC EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

31.4 Review of the Island's Economy Report from the Chairman entitled 'A Snapshot of the Alderney Economy 45 Days after the start of the COVID-19 Lockdown' as circulated by email on the 11th May 2020, tabled and discussed. The Chairman advised that this report is the result of a series of telephone interviews, conducted by the Committee for Tourism and Economic Development, with the principals of a number of local businesses and other organisations, selected to represent various business sectors, during the week of 4th – 8th May 2020.

Members stated that this demonstrates that certain sectors of businesses need to reopen and will provide valuable information for the Alderney Pandemic Emergency Committee to consider.

The CE raised concerns with regards to the commissioning and undertaking of this exercise carried out by CfTED without a formal mandate and without proper consideration of Data Protection obligations. **Noted**

31.5 AY Enterprise The Chairman advised that he received an email from Island Networks this morning with regards to the formation of the AY Enterprise Trust, which has now been approved as a registered charity. Email to be forwarded to the Committee for information however it was noted that this information is embargoed until 7am on the 12th May 2020. **Noted**

CHAIRMAN

32/2020

AOB

32.1 Additional Resources Mr Dent noted that there is a problem with resources within the Civil Service, due to the current situation, and it is evident that it is insufficient for some of the work we are currently being asked to do. He questioned whether it would be possible to utilise some of the expertise available on island if required. **Noted**

32.2 Concession for Commercial Boat Owners Mr Dean advised that following the decision to give a concession for commercial fishermen, GSC will consider a request from other commercial boat owners. The AHoF advised that the concession for commercial fishermen mooring fees were mirroring what the States of Guernsey were offering and

therefore this would be a decision for GSC to make however it should be noted this is currently not being offered to any commercial boat owners in Guernsey. **Noted**

33/2020

Agreed messages for other Committees

To be determined from the minutes for the Chairman to report to other Committees.

TREASURY

34/2020

For information & noting

- Minutes & confidential annexure from 9th March 2020 – noted
- Minutes & confidential annexure from the special meeting 27th April 2020 – Mr Dent raised a suggested amendment to the confidential annexure of the minutes of the 27th April 2020 and request to move item 22.2 in full to the published minutes. The CE advised that minutes produced are not a verbatim account and post meeting amendments should be considered for matters of accuracy rather than to present an argument in a more effective way after later consideration.
It was proposed and agreed that, due to the content discussed and minuted, the resolution should be moved to the published minutes.

TREASURY

- Conge, Leasehold & Transfer Duty 2020 (to date) & Price Paid Data Q1 2020 – **noted**

35/2020

Date of next meeting to be determined as may be required earlier than the next scheduled meeting.

TREASURY/CHAIRMAN

Meeting closed: 13:30pm

Signed: Mr D Earl

Date: 13th May 2020