

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
20th JULY 2020
14:30**

Present:

**Mr D Earl, Chairman
Mr J Dent
Ms A Burgess
Mr M Dean
Mr C Harris**

**Mrs E A Maurice, Acting Head of Finance (AHoF)
Mrs E O'Toole, Treasury Assistant/Minutes (Treasury)**

In attendance: Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor (SFA) (via conference call)

Apologies: Mr A Muter, Chief Executive (CE)

36/2020

Matters Arising

36.1 Alderney Ambulance Service The SFA gave a verbal update on the previously agreed grant, payment of which had been deferred by the Committee early in the year.

The Committee:-

- a) Noted that £40k grant provision for AAS remains in the 2020 budget but has not been released as it was not deemed necessary at this time;
- b) Agreed that the Acting Head of Finance should continue to liaise with AAS to ensure that it can meet its obligations from existing reserves; and
- c) Agreed to receive an update on the transition process and AAS financial position at its next meeting.

AHoF/Agenda Item

36.2 Football Club Grant Report from SFA tabled and discussed.

The Committee agreed to defer its consideration of grant award and amount until it has received:-

- a) A revised business case for the development and an evidenced business plan for the future operation;
- b) A detailed independent estimate of the project costs and project management details for validation by the civil service; and
- c) Confirmation of any funding 'gap' once all other sources have been received.

It was further agreed that any grant award be conditional on written confirmation from the Football Foundation that its due diligence processes for the matched funding award of £110,000 have been successfully completed; and any further conditions that the Committee may determine.

DEFERRED

37/2020

Revenue Account

37.1 Financial Update - Covid-19 - Additional Support Report from AHoF dated 9th July 2020 tabled and discussed.

The Committee:-

- a) Noted the updated revised revenue position as at the end of June 2020;
- b) Agree to write to the General Service Committee (GSC) to advise that the Committee noted the projected deficit for the Harbour and therefore required the

reinstatement of the Visitor Mooring Fee charge, the Water Taxi service charge & boat lift charge and requested GSC action this wef 1st August 2020;

- c) Agreed to recommend an initial allocation of EDR funds up to an amount of £15k to provide COVID commercial support specifically for States tenants;
- d) Agreed that AHoF should prepare criteria to evaluate applications for rent deferral on a case by case basis; and
- e) Agreed to extend the TRP recovery deferral to qualifying businesses until 30th June 2021, subject to the same conditions as required by the States of Guernsey.

AHoF/CHAIRMAN/GSC/EDR

15:20 - Mr Harris left the meeting

37.2 Management Accounts – June (as circulated by email) and noted. The AHoF advised that although the June accounts show a large underspend, it is mainly a timing variance due to the majority of Occupiers Rates income and half year grant from the States of Guernsey having been received. **Noted**

The AHoF circulated the Projected Summary at the meeting which is a more accurate reflection of the projected year-end position, and is based on feedback from meetings with Budget Holders. **Noted**

38/2020 Capital Account

38.1 Capital Budget Implications - Covid-19 Report from AHoF dated 2nd July 2020 tabled and discussed.

A letter to AeGL to be drafted to advise that the Committee noted the reductions in their annual budget to date and welcome further information of reductions and saving which can be made.

AHoF

The Committee:-

- a) Considered the draft revised capital program for 2020 and 2021;
- b) Agreed to recommend to GSC that the Capital Program be limited to priority items only in 2020, with an ongoing review of 2021 projects; and
- c) Request that the Policy and Finance Committee (P&F) consider alternative investment program options which target economic improvement.

TREASURY/AHoF/P&F

39/2020 Delegated Items – Grants

39.1 Grant request – Under 5 Service Providers Report from Treasury dated 14th July 2020 and associated papers, tabled and considered.

The Committee:-

- a) Did not agree a grant to the Alderney Baby and Toddler Group at this time based on their 2019 Accounts and funds held as it does not currently meet the Standard Grant Criteria; and
- b) Requested the SFA and AHoF to query the current account balance with St Anne's Playschool and request information on the outcome of co-funding towards wage costs during the lock-down restrictions, in order to determine an appropriate level of grant funding.

AHoF/SFA

39.2 Summary of Grants & Subsidies 2020 to date tabled and noted.

Alderney Bird Observatory – The Committee noted the successful opening of the Nunnery recently and in reviewing the grants issued during the year and overall support being offered to related parties, the Committee requested from GSC lease details in order that a more accurate level of support may be assessed.

AHoF/GSC

39.3 Archaeological Dig 2020 The Chairman gave a verbal update following an agreed in principle decision by the Policy and Finance Committee in December 2019 for £10,000 for the 2020 Archaeological dig at Longis Common, subject to submission of a grant application to be submitted to the Committees in due course.

Dr Jason Monaghan has advised that the common dig will now take place in 2021 and the Chairman has advised him that a grant application should be submitted to support the in principle decision P&F had made. **Noted**

40/2020

Leases & Contracts

40.1 Alderney Gravel Co – Land Rent & Royalties paper from the Chief Executive's office dated 11th June 2020 tabled and considered. The above item was discussed at the GSC meeting held on the 19th May 2020 and approved a further lease for 1 year to Alderney Gravel Co. **Noted**

The Committee agreed:-

- a) **The new 1 year licence to be increased by RPIX for royalty charge rate, by March 2020 index;**
- b) **Rent to be increased by March 2020 RPIX with similar terms and conditions as the existing licence, wef 1st July 2020; and**
- c) **Alderney Gravel Co to be advised that the Environmental Impact Assessment previously requested, remained pending and unresolved.**

TREASURY

41/2020

Delegated Items – Coins

41.1 Coin Issue for ratification – see confidential annexure.

41.2 Coins – Chairman to update – see confidential annexure.

42/2020

Delegated Items – Stamps

42.1 Stamp Issue for noting – see confidential annexure.

43/2020

Economic Development Reserve / Island Economy

43.1 EDR Summary & Projects (expenditure as at 30th June 2020) Summary as at 30th June 2020 tabled and noted.

Sea Ferry Subsidy – The AHoF gave a brief update on the 2020 subsidy and advised that the SFA is awaiting the 2019 accounts from Little Ferry Company in order to carry out the necessary financial analysis. In January P&F had agreed in principle a subsidy equivalent to the subsidy approved in 2019, subject to the condition that, should there be a change of vessel or significant other revisions to the service, a further report should be brought to P&F for consideration. **Noted**

SFA to follow with operator to resolve this matter as swiftly as possible.

SFA

44/2020

AOB

44.1 Alderney Week Grant The AHoF gave a verbal update on 2019 grant, which had been agreed subject to complete financial records being received and scrutinised/ reviewed by States Treasury. The accounts had now been received and reviewed and it meets the Standard Grants Criteria therefore will be released. **Noted**

It was further noted that the Alderney Week Committee had been advised that future grant applications will be subject to the revised grant criteria and will need to be supported by relevant records confirming that appropriate controls are in place over

income, and will be considered by the Committee for Tourism & Economic Development. **Noted**

16:40 - Ms A Burgess left the meeting

44.2 Budget Strategy 2021 Paper from the SFA to be circulated to the Committee for consideration and comment by email, prior to inclusion on the next P&F agenda.

AHoF/P&F

45/2020 **Agreed messages for other Committees** AHoF to determine.

AHoF

46/2020 **For information & noting**

- Minutes & confidential annexure from 11th May 2020
- Conge, Leasehold & Transfer Duty 2020 (to date) & Price Paid Data Q2 2020
- Budget Timetable 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 14th September 2020 (Budget meeting)

Meeting closed: 16:53pm

Signed: Mr D Earl

Date: 23rd July 2020