

FINANCE COMMITTEE
ANNE FRENCH ROOM
15th November 2021
14:30

Mr C Harris, Chairman
Mr B Abel
Ms A Burgess
Mr I Carter
Mr K Gentle

Ms K Jones, Chief Executive (CE)
Mrs E A Maurice, Head of Finance/ Treasurer (HOF)
Mrs E O'Toole, Finance Manager/Minutes (FM/Treasury)

In attendance: Mr S Taylor, Strategic Financial Advisor (SFA) via MS Teams
Mr R N Harvey, Representative of Alderney Bird Observatory (item 53.2)
Mrs N Paris, Representative of Alderney Bird Observatory (item 53.2)

53/2021

Matters Arising

53.1 Minutes & Confidential annexure from 13th September 2021 tabled and confirmed.

53.2 Grant Request – Alderney Bird Observatory (ABO) – see confidential annexure.

15:15 Mr Harvey & Mrs Paris left the meeting

15:30 Mr Carter re-joined the meeting

54/2021

Revenue Account

54.1 Management Accounts Summary - October 2021 tabled and **noted**.

The HOF advised that some of the major income streams such as Document Duty, Property Transfer Duties and Vehicle Import Fees have already exceeded the Revised Budgets agreed by the States in October. It was also noted that Numismatic Profits following Q3 Royalty figures received, are looking very favourable this year. **Noted**

Members requested information on vehicle import figures and the HOF advised that a report is presented to the General Services Committee annually and 2020 figures would be supplied for information.

HOF

54.2 Major Income Monitoring Report tabled and **noted**.

55/2021

Capital Account

55.1 AGCC Q3 distribution (as previously circulated by email) tabled and **noted**.

56/2021

Delegated Items – Grants

56.1 Grant Request – Alderney Maritime Trust application and accounts, and office assessment from Treasury tabled and considered.

The Committee noted that previously the rent had been under £1k which meant it was not required to be considered by the Committee, as per the Standard Grant Criteria which delegate applications under £1k to be processed by Treasury. **Noted**

The Committee agreed a grant of £1,154.55 to the Alderney Maritime Trust to cover the annual rent of the inner Harbour shed which the Maritime Trust utilise.

TREASURY

56.2 Grant Request – Under 5 Service Providers (St Anne’s Playgroup) Report from the SFA and application and associated papers from St Anne’s Playgroup and considered.

The Committee noted that StAPS is a properly constituted charitable organisation which meets the criteria for support via the grant scheme. A grant request was refused in 2020 as information provided by StAPS at the time, indicated that it did not fully meet the criteria for support.

It was further noted that the draft accounts for 2021 indicate that the StAPS revised financial position enables it to apply for support in the current year.
Noted

The Committee agreed to:-

- a) a grant of approximately £6,000 in the form of a rent waiver for StAPS in 2021; and**
- b) to request that any future grant requests from StAPS must meet the conditions of the scheme and be supported by fuller income and expenditure figures for the period in question.**

TREASURY

56.3 Grant Request – Braye Bay Eelgrass application and accounts from Dr Melanie Broadhurst-Allen on behalf of the Alderney Wildlife Trust, and application review and assessment from Treasury tabled and considered.

The HOF advised that at their meeting of the 12th October 2021, the General Services Committee agreed to support this project in the Harbour/ Braye area, subject to an application being submitted to the Committee for consideration. The proposal also has the support of the Harbour. **Noted**

The Committee noted that the application is for a specific project that falls outside of the main Alderney Wildlife Trust funding support therefore, a separate application for this project has been submitted. **Noted**

The HOF advised that as members will be aware, an amount of £10k has been budgeted for Environmental Grants for 2021 and of this £3k has been spent to date.

The Committee agreed grant support of £1,300 from the Environment Grants budget to the Alderney Wildlife Trust, to purchase the cameras and associated equipment to undertake survey work to assess the ecological impacts from deployed traditional moorings within Eelgrass beds found within Braye Bay.

TREASURY

56.4 Grant Request – 1st Alderney Scout Group The HOF gave a verbal report on a grant application received for assistance towards the cost of materials to build a new Scout hut.

It was noted that at present, Treasury would not be able to recommend award of grant funding on the basis of this application received. Additional information had been requested in respect of income and expenditure forecast and a funding plan for the project.

The Committee was supportive in principle and requested Treasury to advise the 1st Alderney Scout Group that should additional funding for the project be secured at a later date, an application for grant support from the Committee could be considered within the terms of the scheme.

TREASURY/ FUTURE GRANT CONSIDERATION

56.5 Summary of Grants 2021 to date tabled and noted.

- 57/2021** **Delegated Items – Coins**
57.1 Issue for ratification – see confidential annexure.
57.2 Coin Issue for approval – see confidential annexure.
57.3 Commemorative Coin Contract 2023-2028 – see confidential annexure.

- 58/2021** **Delegated Items – Stamps**
58.1 Stamp Issue for noting – see confidential annexure.

- 59/2021** **Economic Development Reserve**
59.1 EDR Summary (expenditure as at 31st October 2021) tabled and **noted**.

The HOF advised that queries have been raised with the Chair of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) and the Project Support Officer with regards to an update on discussions on the future of the EDR fund in particular closing of old votes, opening of new initiatives for 2022 etc. as Treasury stated it would be helpful for the Policy and Finance Committee to consider any recommendations before year-end so that the fund can be appropriately reviewed to ensure funds are being put to good use.

TREASURY/ EDC/ PFC

- 60/2021** **Fees & Charges**
60.1 Cesspit Emptying Charges Report from Treasury/ States Works Department (SWD) tabled and considered.

The HOF advised that Cesspit emptying fees were last considered in 2018 when an increase wef 1st January 2019 was agreed and implement.

The Committee noted that the Mouriaux to Platte Saline project has not yet come to fruition and is unlikely to be completed until end of 2023/ 2024 although individual phases will be completed sooner, and so SWD highlighted during Budget meetings earlier this year that the service continues to be subsidised. **Noted**

The Committee agreed to recommend to the General Services Committee:-

- a) An increase to the cesspit emptying charges wef 1st January 2021 to £32.00 per standard load and £80.00 per load for those that choose not to connect to the main drains or,**
- b) To note that the service is currently subsidised and to re-consider charges once the Mouriaux to Platte Saline Project is completed.**

TREASURY/ GSC

- 61/2021** **Leases & Contracts**
61.1 Boxing Club Lease – Referral from GSC Report from the Chief Executive's Office tabled and considered.

The Committee noted that this item was tabled at the GSC meeting on the 9th November 2021 where it was resolved to approve the drafting of a new 21 year lease for the Alderney Boxing Club and to request that the item be placed before the Committee to consider an appropriate rent.

It was further noted that the request from the Boxing Club regarding the rent was noted and that that some of the land they lease is no longer required therefore they would be looking to only lease the Boxing Club building along with the toilet block at the back.

The HOF recommended, that in light of recent Committee discussions in regard to procedures for setting rental figures, that Committee authorise Treasury to obtain an

appropriate valuation from estate agents on receipt of the draft lease. Details will then be circulated via email once received due to the imminent expiry of this lease.

The Committee agreed to:-

- a) **Authorise Treasury to obtain an appropriate valuation of the Alderney Boxing Club from estate agents on receipt of the draft lease and for the details to be circulated by email once received;**
- b) **To request the Chief Executive's office write to the Boxing Club to give an appropriate extension of the current lease until such time as an appropriate rental figure can be agreed; and**
- c) **Any decision reached by email to be ratified at a future meeting of the Committee.**

TREASURY/ CE OFFICE

61.2 Golf Club Lease – Lease – Referral from GSC Report from the Chief Executive's Office tabled and considered.

As with item 61.1, the Committee noted that this item was tabled at the GSC meeting on the 9th November 2021 where it was resolved to approve the drafting of a new 21 year lease for the Alderney Golf Club and to request that the item be placed before the Committee to consider an appropriate rent.

The HOF again recommended, that in light of recent Committee discussions in regard to procedures for setting rental figures, that Committee authorise Treasury to obtain an appropriate valuation from estate agents on receipt of the draft lease. Details will then be circulated via email once received due to the imminent expiry of this lease.

The Committee agreed to:-

- a) **Authorise Treasury to obtain an appropriate valuation of the Alderney Golf Club from estate agents on receipt of the draft lease and for the details to be circulated by email once received;**
- b) **To request the Chief Executive's office write to the Golf Club to give an appropriate extension of the current lease until such time as an appropriate rental figure can be agreed; and**
- c) **Any decision reached by email to be ratified at a future meeting of the Committee.**

TREASURY/ CE OFFICE

62/2021 **AOB** – none

63/2021 **For information & noting**
• **Price Paid Data Q3 2021**

The Chairman thanked the Committee, the SFA and Treasury staff for their support and assistance during the year.

Meeting closed: 16:30pm

Signed: Mr C Harris, Chairman

Date: 31st January 2022