



**221 Community Grant Applications**

Councillor Christopher Lawrence left the Chamber when this Agenda Item was discussed at 7.07 p.m. and returned to the Chamber at 7.10 p.m.

For the benefit of those members of the public on Zoom, Councillor Graham Hill explained that a separate meeting had been convened for councillors on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January (via zoom) to allow Members to discuss the grant applications which had been received by the council for award in the 2022/23 financial year, in order to enable a full assessment of each application. Members had indicated their preferences in respect of each application. With no further questions or comments relating to the applications,

on the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington seconded by Councillor Pam Jones it was

**RESOLVED to**  
**Approve the following grants:**  
**All Saints Hearing Group £500 (five hundred pounds)**  
**Home-Start Hampshire £6,000 (six thousand pounds)**  
**Bushy Leaze Family Support £9,000 (nine thousand pounds)**  
**Dementia Friendly Alton £1,000 (one thousand pounds)**  
**Broadlands Riding for the Disabled £500 (five hundred pounds)**  
**Alton Community Association £8,000 (eight thousand pounds)**

**All councillors voted in favour**

The Town Clerk confirmed that grants over £5,000 would need to go to Full Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> February for ratification.

**222 Draft Budget and Precept request 2022/23**

Councillors had been invited to a Budget Workshop which was held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January. The two queries raised by Councillor Christopher Lawrence were satisfied by the Town Clerk.

Councillor Pam Jones commended officers on the preparation of the budget presented.

A recorded vote was requested.

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington seconded by Councillor Graham Hill, it was

**RESOLVED to approve:**  
**(i) The budget and precept request for 2022/23 which amounts to a 4.5% increase in precept**

**Councillors in favour: Councillor Graham Titterington, Matthew Bayliss, Suzie Burns, Graham Hill, Christopher Lawrence & Pam Jones**  
**Councillors against: Councillor Gideon Cristofoli**

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington, seconded by Councillor Graham Hill, it was

**(ii) Approve the revised budget for 2021/22 to enable the appropriate virements to be actioned**

**Councillors in favour: Councillor Graham Titterington, Matthew Bayliss, Suzie Burns, Graham Hill, Christopher Lawrence & Pam Jones**

**Councillors abstaining: Councillor Gideon Cristofoli**

**223 Creation of a Reserve for maintenance/improvement works to Kings Pond**

This item was requested by Councillor Gideon Cristofoli on the need for the creation of such a fund to cover future works at Kings Pond, including dredging. It was being proposed that the monies to start this fund are taken from the Molson Coors Option Fee, secured by the Council in 2015 in the sum of £40,000 which is currently on the balance sheet and not allocated to any specific project. Councillor Graham Hill clarified the position with regards to the sum secured as part of the negotiations following the loss of the Coors Sports Ground in Anstey Road when an option fee was negotiated by the council at that time in the sum of £40,000.

An amended Resolution to that proposed by Councillor Gideon Cristofoli was tabled by Councillor Graham Titterington.

A recorded vote was requested.

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington, seconded by Councillor Christopher Lawrence it was

**RESOLVED to amend the Resolution to read:  
Approve the use of the £40,000 option fee to start an Ear Marked Reserve (EMR) for Alton Town Council's Open Spaces.**

**Councillors in favour: Councillor Graham Titterington, Matthew Bayliss, Suzie Burns, Graham Hill, Christopher Lawrence & Pam Jones  
Councillors against: Councillor Gideon Cristofoli**

Members were then requested to approve the now amended motion.

A recorded vote was requested.

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Pam Jones it was

**RESOLVED to  
Approve the use of the £40,000 option fee to start an Ear Marked Reserve (EMR) for Alton Town Council's Open Spaces.**

**Councillors in favour: Councillor Graham Titterington, Matthew Bayliss, Suzie Burns, Graham Hill, Christopher Lawrence & Pam Jones  
Councillors abstaining: Councillor Gideon Cristofoli**

**224 Transfer of Funds to CCLA Property Fund**

Members were asked to approve the investment of £33,583 to the CCLA Property Fund. This represents the latest annual rent payment made by Alton Football Club (£22,116) in December 2021 which is earmarked for the replacement surface on the 3G pitch, together with the interest

accrued in 2020/2021 of £11,467 which is currently sitting as an earmarked reserve. The minimum investment to the fund is £25,000.

A recorded vote was requested.

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Pam Jones, it was

**RESOLVED**

To transfer the sum of £33,583 (thirty-three thousand, five hundred and eighty-three pounds) to the CCLA Property Fund

**Councillors in favour: Councillor Graham Titterington, Matthew Bayliss, Suzie Burns, Graham Hill, Christopher Lawrence & Pam Jones**  
**Councillors abstaining: Councillor Gideon Cristofoli**

**225 Renewal of Town Centre WIFI provision**

The current 3 year contract for the Town Centre WIFI provision expires in February 2022. Members were presented with a usage report of current registered users together with the quotation for renewal.

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington, seconded by Councillor Christopher Lawrence, it was

**RESOLVED to discontinue the Town Centre free WiFi provision for 2022, with a view to revisiting it in the future should a future council so wish to reinstate it.**

The vote was unanimous with all councillors voting in favour

**226 Financial Reports to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

Councillor Titterington commended officers on the production of the accounts. This was echoed by other councillors. The following reports were tabled:

1. Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021
2. Income & Expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021
3. Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021
4. Payments over £500 issued between 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 in respect of invoices.

On the proposal of Councillor Suzie Burns seconded by Councillor Graham Hill it was

**RESOLVED to approve:**

1. The Income and Expenditure account to 31st December 2021
2. The balance sheet dated 31st December 2021
3. The bank reconciliations for the Unity Account and the CCLA Deposit Account
4. The Payments over £500 covering 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021
5. Internal Auditors Report

The vote was unanimous with all councillors voting in favour

Councillor Graham Titterington commended officers on the outcome of the Internal Auditors Report.

**227 Assembly Rooms Contract Renewal with Alton Community Centre**

Members received a report on the Assembly Rooms utilisation and the service provided by the Alton Community Centre. The fee currently charged for the service remains at 50% following the extended closure and reduced number of bookings being made.

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones, seconded by Councillor Matthew Bayliss, it was

**RESOLVED to approve an extension to the current contract with the Alton Community Association for a further 6 months from 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022**

The vote was unanimous with all councillors voting in favour

Before proceeding to the next Agenda Item under Confidential, apologies were extended to those on zoom for the poor sound quality which had been adversely affected by the need to wear masks and/or visors during the meeting held in the Town Hall which was a requirement under current Covid restrictions in place.

**227 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones, seconded by Councillor Suzie Burns, it was

**RESOLVED  
That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded**

**229 Staffing Update**

[REDACTED]

**NOTED**

The meeting finished at 8.10 p.m.