

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

To; All Members of Huntingdon Town Council

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONSED TO ATTEND

A meeting of the
TOWN COUNCIL
to be held at
**HUNTINGDON TOWN HALL,
COUNCIL CHAMBER**
on
THURSDAY 12th JANUARY 2023
At 7pm

REMOTE ACCESS VIA ZOOM AVAILABLE

5th January 2023

Philip Peacock

**PHILIP PEACOCK
TOWN CLERK**

Town Hall
Market Hill
Huntingdon
PE29 3PJ

AGENDA

69. **WELCOME**

Mayor's welcome to the meeting and invitation to Mayor's Chaplain to open proceedings with prayers

70. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive and accept any apologies for absence.

Town Clerk's Note: Any apologies should be received by the Town Clerk prior to the meeting, with the reasons for absence being accepted by the meeting

71. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors in any matter included on this agenda

72. **HUNTINGDON'S MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION**

To receive a presentation from Huntingdonshire District Council on Huntingdon's Master Plan

73. **MINUTES**

To receive and approve the following minutes. Town Council held on 10th November 2022 (M5) and Winter Recess Meeting held on 13th December 2022 (attached)

74. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

To receive and approve the recommendations contained within the minutes (attached) from: Finance Committee held on 17th November 2022 (M3)

75. **PUBLIC ADDRESS FROM COUNCILLORS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO COUNCIL**

To hear any public address to the Council from members of Council and/or members of the public on matters within in responsibility of the Council

76. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

To receive and consider any reports from County & District Councillors, namely:

- i) County Councillors Cllr J King, Cllr T Sanderson and Cllr G Wilson
- ii) District Councillors Cllr J Harvey and N Hunt for Huntingdon East
- iii) District Councillors Cllr M Kadewere, Cllr P Kadewere and Cllr S Wakeford for Huntingdon North
- iv) District Councillors Cllr A Blackwell, S McAdam and T Sanderson for the Stukeleys
- v) District Councillors Cllr P Jordan and Cllr D Shaw for Brampton & Hinchingsbrooke

77. **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE**

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk on current matters, including the following:

- i. Sallowbush Dog Walking area (letter attached)
- ii. Four applications made to the Local Highway Improvements (LHI) Bid
- iii. Pavilion CIL Application
- iv. Stukeley Meadows gym equipment

78. **REPRESENTATION TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

To hear reports from nominated Town Council representatives to designated outside bodies (list attached)

79. **BEVAN CLOSE & MARYLAND AVENUE PLAYAREAS**

Members are requested to approve preparatory work to negotiate freehold and/or leasehold ownership of the above-named play areas, currently owned by and maintained by Huntingdonshire District Council

80. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements the Mayor may wish to make

81. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 6th April 2023 at the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon, PE29 3PJ.

This meeting will be serviced by the Town Clerk – Telephone 01480 410383

COPIES FOR INFORMATION TO: *Huntingdon Town Councillors, District & County Councillors, Mayor's Chaplain, Macebearer, Local Press*

Notes

A. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

(1) Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.

(2) A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it

(a) relates to you, or

(b) is an interest of -

(i) your spouse or civil partner; or (ii) a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or (iii) a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners and you are aware that the other person has the interest.

(3) Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -

(a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;

(b) any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);

(c) any current contracts with the Council;

(d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;

(e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;

(f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or

(g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.

B. Other Interests

(4) If a Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest then you are required to declare that interest but may remain to discuss and vote.

(5) A Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest where -

(a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Council's administrative area, or

(b) it relates to or is likely to affect any of the descriptions referred to above, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of Huntingdon Town Council was held at the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon, PE29 3PJ on Thursday 10th November 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors: A Blackwell; K Brockett; J Cole; D Landon Cole (Mayor); S Gifford; M Kadewere; P Kadewere; B Luckham; A McAdam; S McAdam; A Norton; G Shiels; T Sanderson; P Pearce and K Webb.

In Attendance: Cllr Nathan Hunt and Cllr Dave Shaw from Huntingdonshire District Council and 4 members of the public

(Clerk's note: two members of the public arrived at 7.30pm)

50. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed Members to the meeting and invited the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev'd Jon Randall to say a prayer.

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Town Clerk, Councillors M Baker; C Doyle; P Kennington and S Sweek.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

53. MINUTES

Members had before them the following sets of minutes to recommend for approval. Town Council held on 1st September 2022 (M4). The Mayor asked Members if there were any questions or comments and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the minutes, The Mayor duly signed the minutes as a correct record.

54. PUBLIC ADDRESS

A Member of the public wished to address the Council. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

The Mayor welcomed two residents of St Peter's Road who wished to raise concerns about the level of traffic on St Peter's Road. It was noted that traffic was progressively worsening, the speed of the traffic was deemed unsafe. On St Peter's Road there was a nursery, St Peter's School, as well as other community

facilities, with no dedicated traffic crossing. Residents were struggling with parking and leaving their driveways.

It was requested that speed restriction and traffic calming measures were implemented. The Ermine Street junction was raised as another problem area, with many heavy goods vehicles accessing the road. It was requested that restrictions were added to limit the height and weight of vehicles which were increasing traffic to unsafe levels.

It was recommended that the St Peter's Road proposed traffic calming measures were presented to the Finance Committee on the 17th November 2022 to be considered for a Local Highway Improvement bid.

The Mayor thanked the residents for raising their concerns, with no further questions or comments it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to reconvene the meeting.

55. **HUNTINGDON'S MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION**

Apologies were received from Pamela Scott the Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager at Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) who was going to lead the presentation. No other representatives from HDC were able to attend the meeting.

It was noted that the deadline for comments for Huntingdon's Master Plan was Monday 14th November 2022. It was recommended that the comments were submitted to avoid missing the deadline, then request a presentation at the next meeting. The Assistant Town Clerk requested whether HTC's comments could be amended following the presentation.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to submit the comments to Huntingdon's Master Plans and to invite HDC to give a presentation at the next relevant meeting.

56. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

The Mayor invited the following Councillors to provide reports:

- i) County Councillors T Sanderson, J King and G Wilson

Cllr T Sanderson gave a brief verbal update on Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). It was noted that CCC were in a difficult financial position as there was a budget deficit. Restructure of staff was on-going. The Local Highway Improvement Bids (LHI) had opened, there was a new process which required a shortlist of three projects. Work on last year's LHI bid for Desborough Road would begin shortly and the traffic works on the crossing at Hartford Road was due to commence in February 2023.

- ii) District Councillors J Harvey and N Hunt for Huntingdon East

Cllr J Harvey submitted a written report, Members had copies in front of them. Two motions were debated and passed at HDC. The first was the banning on live pets as prizes on any HDC owned land, HDC would also be writing to the UK Government urging them to implement a ban on both

public and private land. The second motion passed links the cost-of-living crisis with climate change and recognises that both issues need to be addressed together. HDC would be developing a climate strategy that recognises the financial and personal impact on disadvantaged residents, and will be advocating for better, cheaper public transport. This would help residents access their places of work and study whilst reducing carbon emissions. Again, HDC would write to the UK Government to ask for more financial support for those residents that need it most, and for small and medium local businesses to help them with their increased energy costs.

- iii) District Councillors M Kadewere, P Kadewere and S Wakeford for Huntingdon North.

Cllr M Kadewere gave a brief verbal update. Issues on fly tipping around the Oxmoor was raised. HDC was supporting residents with rising energy bills with their Warm Spaces initiative, where residents could go to keep warm over the winter, get a hot drink, some company and other support. Locations included:

- Huntingdon Library
- Huntingdon Methodist Church
- Huntingdon One Leisure Centre
- Huntingdon Parish All Saints Church
- A full list was available on the following website:
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/warm-spaces/warm-spaces-locations/>

- iv) District Councillors A Blackwell; S McAdam and T Sanderson for the Stukeleys

Cllr S McAdam advised Members that the Warm Spaces initiative would also provide people with information, guidance and support on rising out of financial crisis. Including job support etc. It was a longer-term project, not just for winter.

- v) District Councillors P Jordan and D Shaw for Brampton and Hinchingsbrooke

Cllr D Shaw gave a brief verbal update, it was noted that the Cabinet at HDC had approved further improvements to Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. The second round of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was opened, the deadline for applications was 9th January 2023.

57. **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Assistant Town Clerk gave a verbal update on behalf of the Town Clerk. HTC had welcomed new staff members to the team, Claire Copson, Crematorium & Cemeteries Admin Assistant; Charlotte Mann, Communities Officer and Melanie Nunn, Amenities Officer (maternity cover). A warm welcome was extended to all the new starters.

The Assistant Town Clerk highlighted the following:

- Armistice Day was on Friday 11th November and Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade on Sunday 13th November. Members were reminded to arrive at the Town Hall by 10.30am to robe before the services.

- The first Fayre on the Square event would take place on Friday 12th November, 16 traders were confirmed. Members were asked to support if possible. The RBL was the nominated charity for this event.
- On the 8th November All Saint's Church tree was removed. It was discovered that the stump was completely rotten, and the tree was extremely unsafe. Unfortunately, members of the team experienced verbal abuse when the tree was removed. It was highlighted that HTC had a zero-tolerance policy which would be discussed under item 61. A public consultation was on-going for replacement ideas.
- Cricket Pavilion project meetings were on-going, including a key stakeholder meeting in November. Officers would attend the CIL drop-in sessions run by HDC, as the CIL deadline was 9th January.
- Huntingdon Christmas Market was coming up from Friday 25th November – Sunday 27th November, with Jake Jarman switching on the lights at 6.30pm on Friday 25th November.
- The December issue of Huntingdon Magazine would go to print on the 18th November. Members were asked to inform officers if residents raised that copies were not received following distribution.
- The Estates Services Team were organising the move to the new depot, including a thorough audit and inventory of all assets as part of the insurance review.

The Mayor thanked the Assistant Town Clerk for the update, and asked Members for questions and comments. There were none.

58. **ROLLING PROGRAMME**

The Mayor referred Members to the Council's rolling programme, and civic events rolling programme. With no comments or questions, the contents of the rolling programmes were noted with thanks.

59. **REPRESENTATION TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Mayor invited Members to give verbal reports on the outside bodies they represent:

- i. Cromwell Museum Trust – The Cromwell Museum was very busy, visitor numbers for 2022 had already exceeded previous years, with approx. 10,000 visitors so far for 2022. An Arts Council Grant was applied for to aid the Museum in digitising artifacts to increase accessibility to the Cromwell collection. A crowd funding campaign raised money to purchase an original copy of 'Agreement of the People', the manifesto of the Leveller movement, published in November 1647. Unfortunately, they were outbid. The donors agreed that the money could be put into a fund for future acquisitions. The 60th Anniversary Celebrations of Cromwell Museum were very successful and featured in a lot of public press, including BBC Look East.
- ii. Huntingdon Volunteer Centre – HVC had applied for a Community Grants Application at HTC, the application to be ratified at Finance Committee on the 17th November 2022.
- iii. Huntingdon Commemoration Hall – The Commemoration Hall's AGM was scheduled for Monday 5th December from 7.00pm arrival (for welcome drinks) for 7.30pm start. (Cllr S McAdam)

- iv. Huntingdon in Bloom – a full update was available in the rolling programme. The Awards took place in September and HTC received 9 awards. (Cllr K Webb)
- v. St John's Alms-house's Charities – Cllr S Gifford had attended the trustee meeting; residents were pleased with their new boilers. Work was planned to repaint the doors, meetings for next year were scheduled.
- vi. History Festival Group – there was nothing to report (Cllr S McAdam)
- vii. Shopmobility – Shopmobility AGM took place on 25th June 2022. Shopmobility are currently looking for more trustees and are continuing with fundraising. (Cllr A Norton & K Webb)
- viii. Armed Forces Champion – Cllr K Webb had supported a number of events, including Merchant Navy Day, Battle of Britain, the Trafalgar Dinner and Huntingdon Football Club's Remembrance match. Cllr K Webb would be attending Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade.

60. **ANGLIAN WATER PROPOSAL**

Members had before them a report on a proposed reservoir in the Fens in partnership with Cambridge Water. A non-statutory consultation was on-going from 12th October – 21st December 2022. Anglian Water were asking for feedback on the following:

- the area we have identified for the reservoir and its embankments
- the area we have identified for supporting infrastructure and during construction
- the early concept design for the reservoir, and the features people would like to be considered in the design

Members noted the report.

61. **CIVILITY AND RESPECT**

Members had before them a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge recommended by The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). By HTC signing up to the civility and respect pledge the council demonstrates that HTC was committed to treating councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role. (Statement attached to the minutes)

Definition:

Civility means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Examples of ways in which you can show respect are by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind.

The Mayor asked Members for comments and questions, there were none.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the civility and respect pledge.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adopt Huntingdon Town Council's Civility and Respect policy.

62. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Mayor made a motion:

Proposed: Councillor David Landon Cole

- To note the continuing anti-social behaviour on the Market Square;
- To note that the measures taken to date have not improved the situation and that it appears to be worsening, with new people joining the group that frequents the Market Square;
- To note that there have been recent issues of homophobic abuse of passers-by from members of the group who frequent the Market Square;
- To call on Huntingdonshire District Council to impose a Public Spaces Protection Order to the effect that:
 - Persons will not act in a manner that is causing or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress
 - Persons must immediately leave the designated area marked in red for a period of 24 hrs if ordered to do so by a designated officer
 - Alcohol must be disposed of or surrendered if requested by a designated officer.

The Mayor asked Members for comments and/or questions:

Members discussed the issue of anti-social behaviour; it was agreed that it was a complex and difficult issue to resolve. It was having a negative effect on businesses, members of the public and even staff. A public spaces protection order (PSPO) would give the police more power to deal with individuals, however it was noted that it may move the issue to other areas. It was highlighted that the anti-social behaviour required a multiple agency approach, with services working together to combat the problem.

Concerns were raised that a PSPO could be implemented, however the police did not have capacity to enforce the order. It was suggested that HTC could contact the local inspector to find other solutions. The Police and Crime Commissioner could be invited to a relevant meeting to discuss further.

It was advised that HTC now owned their own radio, which linked in with HBAC and the businesses in the Town Centre. Officers had been reporting in incidents as they happened, which has led to more arrests. Members of the public should be reminded to report issues, to help build a case.

It was noted that the master plan was targeting improving tourism in the town and the anti-social behaviour would negatively impact that and any other public events in the town.

With no further comments or questions, a vote took place:

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Cllr S McAdam)

The motion was carried.

63. **BUSES – STAGECOACH EAST**

The Mayor made a motion:

Proposed: Councillor David Landon Cole

- To note with dismay the withdrawal by Stagecoach East of several bus services across the area, including route 30 from Huntingdon to Ramsey, route 35 from Huntingdon to March, route 66 from Huntingdon to St Neots, and route 904 from Huntingdon to St Ives;
- To call on Stagecoach East to revisit these decisions, particularly the 30 and 35 that have no realistic public transport alternative, impacting people's ability to travel for work, leisure, and access to services;
- To call on the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Cambridgeshire County Council, and other bodies to urgently bring forward proposals for restoring these bus services.

The Mayor asked Members for comments and/or questions:

Members raised their concerns about the reduction in bus routes, as it was having not only an impact on people's accessibility but also their livelihoods, some staff from Tesco were having to change their employment as they were unable to get to their work. Members agreed it was a very important issue.

A vote was taken:

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was carried.

64. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor gave a brief update.

The Combined Authority Mayor of Cambridge and Peterborough was on extended sick leave, his Deputy, Councillor Anna Smith was taking over the role in his absence. The Mayor sent his wishes to the Mayor for a swift recovery.

The Mayor's Charity Quiz was scheduled for 19th November at the Coneygear Centre to fundraise for his charities. Tickets were available from the Town Hall.

65. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Mayor asked Members whether it was their wish to move that the public and the press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and it was

RESOLVED to do so.

66. **FREEDOM OF THE TOWN**

Members discussed private and confidential matters.

67. **READMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Mayor asked Members whether it was their wish to readmit members of the public and the press to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED to do so.

68. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 12th January 2023 at the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon, PE29 3PJ.

MAYOR

Definition of Civility and Respect	
<p>Civility means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word.</p> <p>Examples of ways in which you can show respect are by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people's feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind.</p>	
Statement	Tick to agree
Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.	Approved
Our council has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff	Approved
Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors	Approved
Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy.	Approved
Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.	Approved
Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment when it happens.	Approved
Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme	Approved
Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.	Approved

Approved on: 10th November 2022

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RECESS COMMITTEE</u></p>
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A Meeting of the Recess Committee (Council in Committee) was held in the Town Hall, Huntingdon on Tuesday 13th December 2022.

Present: Town Mayor Councillor David Landon Cole (Presiding)

Councillors; K Brockett, J Cole, C Doyle, S Gifford, M Kadewere, P Kadewere, P Kennington (via Zoom), A McAdam, A Norton, G Shiels and P Pearce

Absent: Councillor S Sweek

In Attendance: Philip Peacock, Town Clerk, Natasha Pierson, Assistant Town Clerk, Muibat Babayemi, Finance Manager, Carol Rigden, Properties & Estates Manager, Shilpa Desai Sakaldip (via Zoom), Coneygear Centre Manager, Peter Haynes (via Zoom), Head Groundsman, 1 x Fusion Representative (via Zoom), District Councillor N Hunt (arrived 8.55pm) plus 1 member of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Baker, A Blackwell, B Luckham, S McAdam, T Sanderson and K Webb.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors J Cole and M Kadewere declared an interest under item 9 as Trustees of the Freemans Charity.

3. **PUBLIC/TOWN COUNCILLOR ADDRESS TO COMMITTEE**

A Member wished to address the Council. It was therefore proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

A Member gave thanks to the Estates Services Team for the town centre gritting during the recent icy period. It was noted that the gritting had made a big difference to the safety of pedestrians in the town centre and all Members. Thanks were expressed by all Members.

With no further comments or questions, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to reconvene the meeting.

4. **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Town Clerk gave Members two updates:

1. A reminder that the Mayor's Civic Carol Service was taking place on Wednesday 14th December at 7.00pm. Members were asked to confirm their attendance if not already done so.
2. That following a recent Staffing Sub Committee meeting, a staffing review of the Town Hall team had been initiated as requested and would be undertaken in the New Year.

With no comments or questions, the Mayor gave thanks to the Town Clerk.

5. **KING'S CORONATION**

Members had before them a report regarding how Huntingdon Town Council could mark HM The King's Coronation on 6th May 2023. The Town Clerk told Members that there had been a lack of detail provided from the Palace or by the National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) for national plans to mark the occasion, but it had been confirmed that HM The King wanted a 'low key' Coronation.

Members discussed how the 2023/24 budget was extremely stretched, and that local plans needed to take this into consideration. The report outlined two options, both to be located at Coneygear Park and the Coneygear Centre. The first was a 'picnic in the park' style event with a big screen, stage and entertainment and the other was to expand on the existing Pensioners' Summer Tea event, tying it in with the Coronation date with a screen to broadcast the event. Some Members felt that the occasion needed to be marked in the town centre and it was suggested that the BID team might have plans for this area. The Town Clerk confirmed that flags would be flown from the Town Hall and around the Market Square too. It was also suggested that there might be some celebratory Church services, which could be publicised to the community. Members discussed the issue of weather, and how any outdoor plans could be affected if the weather was inclement.

After discussing the options at the Coneygear Centre, and the need for something to happen in the town centre, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to proceed with the option to expand the Pensioner's Summer Tea event and to work with BID to look at marking the occasion in the town centre.

6. **LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

Members had before them a report regarding proposed Local Highway Improvement (LHI) projects to submit for the 2023/24 round of applications.

The Assistant Town Clerk ran through the report with Members, who discussed the proposed areas and which ones would be best to submit. Members were reminded that a total budget of £10,000 had been set for LHIs in 2023/24, so this needed to be taken into consideration when choosing the projects to put forward, as a minimum 10% contribution was required from the Town Council for successful applications.

After discussion regarding each of the listed locations within the report and which forms of traffic calming measures would be most effective and economical for the issues raised, Members agreed to put forward the following applications:

American Lane – Road Narrowing (estimated project cost £14k)

Coneygear Road – Speed Humps (estimated project cost £23k)

Lake Way – Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) (estimated project cost £5-6k)

St Peter's Road – Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) (estimated project cost £5-6k)

It was noted that one of the above applications would need to be applied for by a community group, and it was agreed that either Lake Way or St Peter's Road should be applied for by a community group with the proposed traffic calming measure being less costly than those of American Lane and Coneygear Road.

Finally, the Assistant Town Clerk notified Members that the application process had recently changed, and that data or 'evidence of need' was required to support each application. It was therefore suggested that resident/premises letter drops should be carried out in advance of Christmas with a deadline for comments as Tuesday 3rd January 2023, ahead of the application deadline on Friday 6th January 2023.

With no further comments or questions, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the submission of LHI projects on American Lane, Coneygear Road, Lake Way and St Peter's Road for 2023/24, with letter drops carried out for the locations in advance of 6th January 2023.

7. **FUSION**

Members had before them a report regarding the young people's charity, Fusion, needing a new home in Huntingdon. The report outlined initial meetings that had

taken place between Fusion, the Town Council and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), regarding funding of £750k that could be used to help fund the building of a new purpose-built facility in the north of Huntingdon for youth provision. Initial discussion had taken place regarding Fusion sharing the cricket pavilion with the Cricket Club and Hunts Cancer Care Network (HCCN), but it had become evident that Fusion needed their own dedicated space, and that the location needed to be more central to the young people it supported, in the north of the town.

The report therefore proposed that the Town Council could lease a parcel of land at the north-east of Coneygear Park to Fusion, for them to build a building of their own on that site.

The Town Clerk updated Members to explain that since the report was circulated, the £750k from CCC had increased to £1.5m, as funding from another youth project in the County had become available. Members were told that Fusion had initially expressed an interest in building a building on the overflow car park of the Coneygear Centre, but that this wouldn't be possible as the overflow car park was installed as part of the planning conditions. The Town Clerk further explained that if the building was to be built on the north-east side of Coneygear Park, this could also benefit the neighbouring mosque, who could make use of the car parking area for particularly busy times such as Friday prayers, where currently cars park along the main stretch of Coneygear Road.

Members debated the location, raising concern at building on Coneygear Park. It was questioned as to why the building couldn't be in another area of the town, but the Town Clerk explained that the youth funding of £1.5m from CCC had to be spent in the north of Huntingdon due to deprivation statistics provided by central government. Members were in full agreement that Fusion did a fantastic job in the town and that it was important to support their work, but disagreements were had as to where the building should be located. Some Members felt that similarly to the Coneygear Centre, a building for Fusion on Coneygear Park could enhance the outside space, making use of a currently underused area of the park.

Some Members expressed concern at the lack of public consultation, but the Town Clerk explained that there couldn't be a public consultation ahead of Members discussing how they wished to proceed. Members advised that some residents had been upset to read the report regarding the proposal and that there was ill feeling towards building again on the park. Members spent some time talking about the importance of Fusion's work in supporting the youth in the town and that it would be a great shame if the charity was to lose a substantial offer of funding if a location couldn't be agreed.

At the conclusion of the discussions, the Town Clerk suggested amending the recommendation phrasing of the report slightly to read the following, "to approve in principle the leasing of land to Fusion on Coneygear Park to erect a new building

and associated car park at a peppercorn rent, subject to public consultation results”.

The Mayor took a vote on the amended recommendation, and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to proceed with the amended recommendation, to approve in principle the leasing of land to Fusion on Coneygear Park to erect a new building and associated car park at a peppercorn rent, subject to public consultation results.

7 Members voted in favour
2 Members voted against
1 Member abstained

8. **CRICKET PAVILION**

Members had before them a report regarding the proposal of demolishing and rebuilding the existing cricket pavilion on St Peter’s Road to build a new purpose built building for the cricket club and Hunts Cancer Care Network (HCCN). The report detailed two options for the new building, which the Property & Estates Manager ran through; one option to create a new pavilion with an indoor sports hall for multi sports use and a caretaker’s flat, and the other to create a new pavilion, minus the indoor sports hall and flat.

Members were advised that Option 1 (with the sports hall and flat) would be of considerable financial risk for the Council since there wasn’t confirmed funding for the total project cost, which would likely be up to 30% more than projected, due to rising costs and inflation. Members debated the benefit of both options, and it was agreed that taking on a £2m project was of less financial risk than up to a £5m project. It was however discussed that in time, a sports hall could be added to the building, should future funding become available. One Member advised that the Town Council had ringfenced the £600k from the sale of Sallowbush land and had up to £150k in unspent CIL/S106 to contribute towards the project, therefore no more than £750k should be put forward as the Town Council’s contribution, with the rest coming from external funding streams and grant applications.

Members debated the two options and which funding streams would be available to apply for and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to proceed with option 2 in the report, to demolish and rebuild the cricket pavilion without the sports hall or caretaker’s flat

8 Members voted in favour
2 Members abstained

It was further proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to commit up to £750k of funding from the Town Council towards the project cost.

8 Members voted in favour

2 Members abstained

9. **SPRING COMMON**

Members had before them a report regarding Spring Common, a parcel of land in Huntingdon owned by the Freemans Charity but leased to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). The report detailed, and the Town Clerk explained to Members that the existing lease was in place until 2027, but that HDC were willing to relinquish the lease early, should the Town Council wish to consider taking management of the Common on.

Members discussed that a lot of work was required to get the Common back up to a good standard, and the Town Clerk explained that should the lease be terminated, or expire, HDC would be responsible for bringing the land back up to standard before handing it back.

Members expressed concerns over taking the land on and the financial risk to the Council. It was agreed that should the Council investigate taking on the management and maintenance of Spring Common, it would need to be subject to adequate funding from the Freemans to be a self-financing addition to the Town Council' remit. Members agreed that the Common had huge potential to be a great space for the local community to use and enjoy, boasting a great variety of flora, fauna and wildlife.

After discussing the risks, but potential with investigating taking on the lease, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to enter negotiations and discussion with the Freemans Charity relating to taking over the lease from HDC, subject to full reports on the land being carried out and received.

10. **INTERFACE WITH HDC**

Members had before them a report with updates from recent discussions with HDC from the quarterly meetings scheduled to take place between the Town and District Council to discuss issues, matters relating to Huntingdon. Members were told that the updates from the report were from the November catch up, but that the December meeting, due to have taken place on the 12th December hadn't taken place.

The Mayor asked Members if there were any questions and concerns were raised about installing a pedestrian crossing on Hartford Road near to the bus stop that had recently been crashed into. Another Member highlighted the plans for 'wild verges' to be planted with wildflowers, agreeing that HDC would need to communicate this so that residents/road users are aware of the changes to the currently cut verges.

With no further comments or questions from the updates, the Town Clerk advised that Councillor Sanderson had requested to put forward the following motion:

"This council commences preparatory work to negotiate freehold and/or leasehold ownership of play areas at Bevan Close and Maryland Avenue, Huntingdon currently owned and maintained by Huntingdonshire District Council."

Members questioned the need to declare an interest if both Town and District Councillors and asked whether the Motion could be put forward by a Town Councillor, also representing the District. Members felt that the Motion needed to be proposed by a non-District Councillor, and in the absence of Councillor Sanderson, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to defer the Motion to a future meeting.

11. **CIVILITY & RESPECT**

- i) Following the recent adoption of the Civility & Respect Pledge, Members were asked to approve that the Mayor signed the official Pledge confirming Huntingdon Town Council's support. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED that the Mayor should sign the pledge and it was duly signed.

- ii) Members had before them a report regarding an Early Day Motion, calling on the Government to re-visit its responses to the Committee on the Standards in Public Life report on local government ethical standards.

The Town Clerk asked Members for their support with the pledge and to approve the sending of a letter to Jonathan Djanogly MP to request his support with the national issue.

Members were in full support of the Motion and it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to issue a letter to Jonathan Djanogly MP to request his support for the Early Day Motion.

8:55 pm Cllr Hunt arrived

12. **PRECEPT**

Members had before them a report regarding the setting of Huntingdon Town Council's 2023/24 Precept, to submit the request to Huntingdonshire District Council by their deadline of 6th January 2023.

The report recommended a Precept figure of £1,650,217.00 to make up the difference between the Council's budgeted income and expenditure for 2023/24 of £4,775,890.00 and £3,213,054.00, supported by £62,000.00 from General Reserves.

The Mayor invited the Chairman of the Finance Committee to give a verbal report regarding the setting of the Precept. Councillor Pearce ran through the process of the 2023/24 budget setting process, which Members were reminded had begun several months ago, with numerous meetings of the Finance Sub Committee, and with the Town Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and other Officers/Councillors. Thanks were given to all involved for their perseverance and ongoing efforts in getting to the Precept figure detailed in the report, which resulted in a weekly increase of £0.49p per week on a Band D property, or £0.38p on a Band B property, of which most were in Huntingdon.

Members discussed the increase, commenting that with inflation, the increase was reasonable, given the amount of work, services, projects and events undertaken by the Council to serve the town. One Member suggested that the new Communications Officer post was already greatly assisting in telling residents all that the Town Council does, and it was agreed that this was extremely important in demonstrating what the Council is achieving within the new budget. The Town Clerk expanded on this, from experience that it would be a negative impact to cut budgets and stop providing services, as this would be noticed, but by making small increases to carry on providing a high level of service delivery, this would be welcomed by residents.

One Member highlighted the cost-of-living crisis, concerned that the increases wouldn't be affordable, especially as there would be increases across the County and District Council, along with other authorities such as Police and Fire. Members were reminded that the Town Council's part of Council Tax formed a smaller proportion and that the services undertaken by the Town Council made a big difference to local people's lives. It was noted that the setting of the 2023/24 budget had been the hardest year yet and that a huge amount of work had gone into making the budget as tight as possible. Another Member suggested that 80% of people entitled to support were not in full receipt of their benefit entitlement and it was suggested that the Town Council could produce an information sheet on what support was available and where from. One Member advised that they had

been assisting residents with applications for support and that they would be happy to offer their help more widely.

Finally, the Mayor advised that he had written an article to submit to the Hunts Post regarding the 49p per week increase to explain to residents how this figure had been met, which he hoped would help to demonstrate why the increase was the right thing to do.

With no further comments, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the 2023/24 Precept figure of £1,650,217.00, which would be submitted to HDC by 6th January 2023.

7 Members voted in favour

2 Members voted against

1 Member abstained

13. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor wished all Members, Officers and residents a Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

MAYOR

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held at Huntingdon Town Hall on Thursday 17th November 2022 at 7:00pm.

MINUTES

Present: Councillors A Blackwell; K Brockett; J Cole; D Cole; S Gifford; M Kadewere; P Kadewere; P Kennington; B Luckham; A Norton; P Pearce (Chairman); and T Sanderson.

Absent: C Doyle; G Sheils and S Sweek

In Attendance: 1 member of the public

The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the member of the public

30. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors: M Baker; A McAdam; S McAdam and K Webb

31. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr K Brockett declared that he sits on the committee for Huntingdon Carnival, to be discussed in item 35.

32. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**

There were none.

33. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 29th September 2022 (M2) were presented to Members. The Chairman asked Members if there were any comments and with no questions raised, it was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

34. **RECOMMENDATION OF SUB COMMITTEES**

Members had before them the minutes of:

- i. Lettings Sub Committee, held on 27th October 2022 (M1) (P&C)

It was noted that Cllrs M Kadeware, P Kadeware and P Kennington were listed as absent on the minutes but were not members of the committee.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to receive, approve and adopt the recommendations contained herein.

- ii. Grants Sub Committee, held on 27th October 2022 (M1) (attached)

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to receive and approve the minutes of the meeting with the recommendations to be discussed in item 39.

- iii. Twinning Sub Committee, held on 13th October 2022 (M1) (attached)

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to receive and approve the minutes of the meeting with the recommendations to be discussed in item 42.

- iv. Finance Sub Committee, held on 29th September 2022 (M1) (P&C)

The Chairman of the Finance Sub Committee spoke to explain that the council budget faced some extraordinary challenges and that following the sub committee meeting on 29th September, the Chairman and Vice Chairman had met with the Chairman of the Finance Committee separately and a further sub committee will be held on 22nd November.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to receive, approve, and adopt the recommendations contained herein.

35. **HUNTINGDON CARNIVAL**

The committee received a verbal presentation from the Chairman of Huntingdon Carnival regarding future funding.

The Chairman of Huntingdon Carnival stated that it had been running for 5 years but was currently operating with a projected £2½K deficit. Previous financial support had been given by Huntingdon Freemans Trust, but they were no longer able to continue this. The chairman confirmed that in previous years the event has attracted on average 3,000 people, and that there is a parade, a fun fair, a dog show and there have also been a spitfire flyby.

The expenditure for the 2022 carnival was £9,399.86, however the total

income was £6,873.76, leading to a deficit of £2,526.10. All expenditures are necessary for the safe running of the event. The cost of hire for stalls is £30 for community stalls and £80 for commercial stalls, this hire is for both days. Other income comes from sponsorship.

The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival would like to request an annual grant of £3,000 from Huntingdon Town Council, to cover running costs for the carnival. Members were invited to ask questions.

A member asked about the costs for barriers and tables, and for security. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival confirmed that these had previously been provided by the vendor providing the bar, but these were no longer provided. There had also been a contribution towards security costs which was no longer covered.

A member stated that the carnival is important to residents' mental health and that carnivals taking place in other cities are supported by local councils.

A member asked when the Freemans trust were last asked for a contribution. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival confirmed that they initially asked for a grant 5 years ago and were refused this year as the Freeman's trust didn't want to make a regular grant.

A member commented that there had been concerns raised with licensing and safety for the 2022 carnival and what would happen if the carnival were cancelled. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival confirmed that the money would be returned.

A member questioned the rates for the stalls and stated that it was very good value. They asked about income from the burger vans and the bar. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival confirmed that there had been a price freeze on the stalls for 2 years. The burger vans were provided by the funfair who made a £1500 donation to operate the funfair and burger vans, they then kept their own income. The bar made a £900 donation on the same basis.

A member asked about the costs for entertainment and whether there would be a reduction if it was held on one day, rather than two. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival confirmed that the bands performed for free. He confirmed that set up fees would remain the same, and therefore there would not be any reduction in costs.

A member asked about the costs for the radio advert and insurance. The Chairman of Huntingdon Carnival confirmed that the advert was with HCR 104fm. In previous years the insurance for the event was also covered by HCR, however this was now only 50% covered.

A member questioned the cost of the field clearance. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival confirmed that this was the charge from Huntingdonshire District Council to remove rubbish, despite the carnival also clearing the site themselves. A member suggested speaking to HDC to arrange sponsorship in kind.

A member stated that current running costs did not make the event seem very affordable. However fun should be encouraged and the local residents really enjoy the carnival.

A member questioned the extra costs for running on Sunday and questioned the small amounts collected in the bucket collection. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival stated that all stall hire and donations from vendors were given on the expectation it would be a two day event, but the carnival committee were committed to keeping the event free to enter. He acknowledged that bucket collections were low but that times were tight.

The Mayor commented that the carnival support the Mayor's charities with a community stall, and it was a fun event but acknowledged that money is tight for everyone. He suggested there may be other ways the town council could support the carnival. He commented that HDC have plans to link the Town centre more with the riverside as part of the Huntingdon Master Plan and that the carnival was a great event to do this.

A member asked why there was a hire charge for the toilets when there are public toilets on Riverside Park. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival stated that the public toilets had been closed for 2 years, and that more would be needed regardless, due to ratios for facilities at events. The chairman of the committee confirmed that access to the public toilets is a matter for HDC and not HTC.

The Town Clerk advised that it is within capacity of committee to give grants but raised concern about potential liabilities incurred. He noted that the staff at Town Hall had received calls from HDC prior to the 2022 carnival about the event and suggested that councillors request a copy of the Event Management Plan and await an outcome from the SAG panel before making a decision on funding. He suggested that the council may want to give a specific grant rather than to support running costs and suggested the hire of the PA and stage equipment, which cost £3000, subject to appropriate insurance cover.

A member asked whether this would be appropriate within S137 provisions.

The Town Clerk confirmed that this would be within S137 provisions. There was money set aside for the King's coronation next year which may be redistributed. The Town Clerk advised that the town council did not make a long term funding commitment at this stage, but trial the arrangement for 1 year.

The chairman of the committee asked what other fundraising efforts had been made to raise the shortfall. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival confirmed that fundraising events such as a quiz night and race night had been organised, but these only raised between £400-500 which was not sufficient.

The chairman of the committee asked when a decision was needed and

would they have enough time to prepare Event Management Plan and SAG Panel by then. The chairman of Huntingdon Carnival confirmed that they would need a decision by end of January or early February, and they would be prepared by then. The chairman of the committee thanked the chairman of Huntingdon Carnival for the presentation.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to add a motion to the agenda of the next finance meeting on the 12th January. There was one abstention.

36. **MONTHLY EXPENDITURE**

Members had before them a copy of the monthly expenditure of Huntingdon Town Council for September and October 2022

The Chairman asked if there were any questions.

Cllr Blackwell had emailed in advance of the meeting concerning some entries, with an email response given by the Finance Officer.

Expenditure	Further Details
Payment to TC Harrison Ford	Van Repairs following failed MOT
Jenny Jose Damage Refund	Damage deposit refunded following hire of Coneygear Centre
Michael James Car park damage	Repairs to sporting ground car park
Telegram message T Gilman	Paid at mayor's request
Carriages electronic payment	Payment for Coneygear Seniors Day trip to local coach company
Tesco electronic payment	Payment for weekly shopping for Coneygear Seniors
NuBlue electronic payment	Payment for Council Weddings webpage renewal
TRF for TE	Internal transfer of funds following staff collection

With no further comments or questions, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the monthly expenditure for June 2022, July 2022 and August 2022.

37. **BANK RECONCILIATION**

Members received a copy of the bank reconciliation for months ending 30th September and 31st October 2022

The Chairman asked members whether there were any questions. There were none.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation for months ending 30th September and 31st October 2022

38. **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

Members had before them

- i. The income and expenditure report from September – October 2022
- ii. The Balance Sheet summary

The Chairman asked if there were any comments.

A member stated that it was understandable that there was an overspend, but that it was important to recognise the significance of the current economic climate

The Chairman stated that there is currently a forecasted overspend of £479,174 but that due to actions taken during previous years, there was resilience in the accounts to withstand this. The biggest challenge will be in setting the precept for 2023/2024.

A member noted that it was not just the precept and that there is likely to be a shortfall next year as well, so it will be an issue for several years.

The Chairman accepted the point but clarified that mitigations were in place and thanked the staff for their hard work in preparing the accounts.

The Town Clerk confirmed the expected balance in total reserves is £1,442,222.

A member asked whether it was required that the council maintain 6 months of operational costs in reserves. The Town Clerk clarified that it is recommended that councils keep 3 months working capital in general reserves, although 6 months is preferred.

It was noted that there are reserves for capital projects and S106 money, but these can only be used for these projects.

The Town Clerk noted that general reserves are listed in report separately.

The Responsible Financial Officer stated that the current forecast is likely to change by the end of the financial year.

The chairman asked what mitigations are in place to reduce any further expenditure for the remainder of the year.

The Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that managers are meeting to discuss expenditure on a monthly basis to identify any savings to be made. This may be quite limited though as the largest increases expenditure is utility bills.

The Town Clerk noted that most Town Council Income is due in autumn months and there are still some income outstanding.

A member asked if there were any plans to increase income at the Town hall and crematorium.

The Town Clerk noted that this has been discussed at the Lettings Sub Committee and hire rates had been reviewed for both the Town hall and the crematorium. The crematorium has increased its activity from 3 cremations a day initially, to 8 per day. This is due to an increase in direct cremations which are not reliant on the availability of hearses from funeral directors.

A member asked if this increase had been accounted for in the forecasts and the Responsible Financial Officer confirmed it had.

A member asked if it would be possible to increase hires at Sapley Lodge, but the Town Clerk noted that there are restrictions on its use due to planning permissions. The Town Clerk noted that they were in conversation with local orchestras about potential hire of the chapel for rehearsal space at weekends.

Members noted the reports and gave thanks to the Responsible Financial Officer.

39. **GRANTS**

Members were asked to receive a report from the democratic officer regarding further information on grant applications. Three organisations had been asked to provide more supporting information to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria.

i. Sports Connections Foundation

Further information was requested regarding whether they were a profit-making business and whether it would benefit residents of Huntingdon. They confirmed they are a registered charity with a charity number. The grant application will fund a programme due to start in the new year, based at St Peter's School in Huntingdon.

ii. Thrive Youth Work Huntingdon

No further information had been received prior to the meeting.

iii. Kanazawa Judo

Further information was requested regarding how it would benefit residents of Huntingdon. The original grant application of £1000 was now amended to £500, and detailed that the grant would support local children from Huntingdon to access the classes based at the Coneygear Centre.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to decline the grant for Thrive Youth Work Huntingdon, as they had not submitted any additional information, but they would be invited to apply again in the next grant round. There was one abstention.

It was

RESOLVED to recommend that the following applications be granted in the amounts shown, subject to the usual conditions and made under the provisions of Section 137, 142, 144 and 145 of the Local Government Act 1972, it being in this Council's opinion that such grants are made in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and that levels of grant are commensurate with levels of benefit derived therefrom:

1. Sports Connections Foundation– awarded £500.00
2. Kanazawa Judo – awarded £500.00

The amount awarded at the meeting totalled £1000 under Section 137(1) of the Local Government Act 1972: Class 5 – Ceremonial and Entertainment and Class 9 – Social Welfare.

40. **STUKELEY'S MEADOWS GYM EQUIPMENT**

Members had before them a quote for the installation of outdoor gym equipment at Stukeley Meadows.

A member asked whether residents had been consulted on the installation of the outdoor gym equipment.

A member stated that consultation was needed with local residents, no point in consulting if finance committee don't approve the quote first.

A member asked if the climbing wall was included.

The Town Clerk confirmed that climbing wall was not included in the Gym equipment. It was noted that the papers before members were just an extract of the full quote.

A member requested that the consultation needed to be wider than just residents living adjacent to the space, as it was a lot of money to spend in just one ward.

A member stated it would be a sensible idea to agree the quote to take to residents as part of a consultation.

The Town Clerk advised that a discussion with Huntingdonshire District Council was needed as they owned the land the new gym equipment was due to be installed on. Following this a consultation document could be drafted for residents to review.

A member advised that the original trim trail was initially installed using s106 funding along with other projects across the town. The trim trail needs to be removed and this quote would be a replacement.

The chairman stated that permission from Huntingdonshire District Council needed to be sought and that it might be possible to defer for a future discussion of cost.

A member proposed that quote was agreed subject to further discussions with Huntingdonshire District Council and a consultation with residents.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken

For - 8
Against – 3

It was

RESOLVED to approve the quote.

41. **LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

The Town Clerk advised that members were to shortlist 3 projects to approve for a local highway improvement bid (LHI) for 2022/23.

The list included:

1. Speed reduction measures in American Lane
2. Footpath installation on the corner of Coneygear Road and Sapley Road
3. Speed bumps between Pennington Road and Sapley Road
4. Pedestrian crossing between Sallowbush Road and Redwongs Way
5. Bollards to prevent vehicles turning at Wertheim Way
6. Speed bumps at Lake Way
7. Improvement between Spring Common and St Peters Road, to include traffic calming on St Peter's Road (this was an additional project added at the meeting.)

A member stated that the projects needed more discussion. The town council can submit 3 projects, but a local community group may be able to support a separate bid. It may also be possible to combine some of these projects into larger bids. It was suggested that projects 1 & 2 may be combined, and projects 5&6 may be combined, due to the closeness in their locations. Project 4 (pedestrian crossing between Sallowbush road and Redwongs road) may not be successful due to lack of traffic usage.

A member asked if any projects had received specific comments or arisen out of a particular incident. It was noted that feedback had been received regarding projects 1 and 7.

The Town Clerk noted that successful bid must 'score' highly, and that unless there is a fatality a speed bump on it's own will not score high. He noted that the application was due to be made in January and that town council staff can undertake more work to produce a report for members with more details.

A member noted that a neighbourhood watch group may be able to support an application.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to defer the decision until after a report had been received.

42. **TWINNING FUNDING**

The Town Clerk stated that Huntingdon Town Council's current service level agreement with Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association has now expired (2018-2022), but that there are outstanding payments to be made.

The SLA agrees that HTC will make a £5,000 financial contribution each year, to cover the Mayoral expenses that may occur on any twinned trips and to cover the expenses of any visiting Mayor as well. Payments had been deferred for two years, as there had not been any activity due to covid. There was now £9,864 due to pay (two years of financial contributions minus a £136 payment already made).

A member noted that although it is important to support twinning, there are also other organisations that need money.

A member commented that it was a large amount of money to pay, however it was already agreed in the SLA so HTC were required to pay the money. It was noted that there is a new committee at HGTA who were keen to engage more with the community. The funding also provides for activity within Huntingdon such as the mural at the rear of the commemoration hall. The member reminded the committee that twinning is a civic function that would still need to be paid for somehow and that HGTA is effectively subcontracted to provide this function.

The chairman of the Finance Committee stated that the SLA is a contract and therefore needs to be paid. The chairman expressed concern at the disproportionate payment compared to Godmanchester Town Council (GTC) and that discussion of this would need to be considered in the next SLA.

The chairman of the Twinning Committee noted that twinning is well established but noted that there were improvements to be made to include more of Huntingdon. There are meetings due to take place with GTC to discuss future contributions.

The chairman of the Finance Committee stated that it was a civic responsibility for the town, and that twinning did increase footfall in the town centre. It was

also noted that there have been arts displays and other activity is being planned. It was noted that the Twinning Committee must ensure that the next SLA reflects and equal share of contribution with GTC.

A member asked if there will be any other ongoing costs.

The Town Clerk stated that the SLA expires this year and any other costs would need to be discussed as part of the SLA discussions with GTC and HGTA.

The chairman of the Finance Committee reminded members that the SLA is a legal contract and that members were obligated to pay. £136 had already been paid, and there was still £9,864 remaining.

A member proposed that Huntingdon Town Council approve the payment to the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association, in line with the terms of the 2018-2022 Service Level Agreement, but that no further payment to be paid until this has been reviewed.

It was proposed, seconded and a vote taken

For - 7

Against – 2

2 members abstained.

It was

RESOLVED to approve the payment.

43. **DATE AND AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 12th January 2023.

**Representatives to Outside Bodies
2022-23**

Organisation	2022-23 Councillor Representatives	
BID Huntingdon (1)	C Doyle	
Cromwell Museum Trust (2)	P Pearce S Gifford	
Hartford Conservation Group (1)	J Cole	
Friends of Coneygear Park (2)	J Cole	P Kennington
HBAC (Huntingdon Business Against Crime) (1)	P Kadewere	
Huntingdon Freeman's Charity (1)	B Luckham	
Huntingdon Commemoration Hall Charity (4)	K Webb	S McAdam
	S Sweek	A McAdam
Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association (1)	A Blackwell	
Huntingdon In Bloom (2)	S Gifford	K Webb
Islamic Prayer Centre (1)	J Cole	
St Johns' Almshouses Charities (2)	S Gifford	A Blackwell
Hunts Volunteer Centre (1)	P Pearce	
Coneygear User Group (2)	A Blackwell	M Kadewere
Joint Town Devolution Group (2)	Mayor	Deputy Mayor
Library Support Group (1)	S McAdam	
History Festival Group (2)	C Doyle	S McAdam
Shopmobility (2)	K Webb	A Norton
Fusion (1)	S Sweek	
Hunts Forum (2)	P Kadewere	A Beevor
Armed Forces Champion	K Webb	

Representatives to Outside Bodies 2022-23

Removed from list Jun 2022:

Citizen's Advice Bureau