



## **Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

### **Finance & Establishment Committee**

#### **Chair's Report from Cllr Jonathon Toy**

The Finance and Establishment Committee oversees the management of the Town Council's finance and the "Establishment" element covers staffing and resourcing matters.

#### **Finance**

We approved the five-year rolling plan and the 2022/23 budget in December 2021 and these were recommended to Full Council – where it was resolved to adopt both in January 2022. The increase for 2022/23 was in line with inflation at this time of budget setting. However F&E will need to undertake a review of the impact of budget pressures caused by increases in fuel prices and other running costs which are set to significantly rise in the next financial years.

#### **Budgets**

F&E retained the resilience fund has helped support the food bank. Whilst there has been some debate on the future of the Fund to ensure it continues to meet the changes needs of our committee, the fund will be retained. Despite our work to support residents facing economic hardship through Covid, the current international crises and increases in both fuel and food prices will add to the challenges of financially challenges families. The Resilience Fund is a small contribution to those most at need at a time as should remain a core part of our financially commitment.

The Small Grants process has awarded £2,303.00 to local community groups and a further £780.62 in free of charge hall hire to support local groups and charities.

I would like to highlight the increase in income through the TIC and the progress made through on line sales. Whilst we have only started on this journey it is refreshing to see the commitment of staff and support offered by Cllr de Vires.

#### **Policies**

F&E have reviewed a number of policies and procedures in 2021/23, including the recent progress on the Privacy Policy, the Domestic Abuse Policy.

I would particularly commend the excellent work undertaken by the Town Clerk and Cllr Millward on refreshing the Grants Policy so it supports the future needs of community and voluntary sector organisation who are contributing so much to the vibrancy of the Town.

## **HR Award**

SWTC was awarded “Gold Status” for its management, leadership and administration of employment matters and HR management systems.

Stallard Kane who completed the annual review noted measures introduced to support staff during covid, finding the Council had “pulled together” to address any matters of concern and had taken a pragmatic but safe stance in continuing to offer its services to the public.

## **Summary comments**

Having been Chair of F&E for 2 years, I would like to formally thank the support provided by the Town Clerk and the Responsible Finance Officer. The work undertaken to ensure the committee runs smoothly should not be underestimated and is greatly appreciated by committee members.

I would also like to thank and pass my best wishes to Cllr Millward, who has been deputy Chair of the last two years and will be taking on the role of Chair for 2022/23.

I do feel that there are opportunities for committees such as F&E and A&S's to work collaboratively on shared issues. Joint meeting of Chairs to agree collaboration would be a welcome step forward and demonstrate the inclusive approach that we have tried to instil at F&E during the last two years.