

**Minutes of the Fremington Parish Council Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10.30am via Zoom.**

- Present: Cllrs, F Biederman (Chairman), I Crawford (Vice Chairman), L Goodger, S Kingdom and I Capon.  
Mrs Kate Graddock, Deputy Executive Officer.
- 2010/24     **Apologies**  
All members were present.
- 2010/25     **Declarations**  
None
- 2010/26     **Public Participation Period**  
None.
- 2010/27     **Minutes**  
Copies had already been circulated to Members. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 as a correct record.
- 2010/28     **Staff Salaries**  
It was **resolved** to approve the staff salaries, expenses, PAYE/NI and pension payments for the month of October 2020.
- 2010/29     **Accounts Due for Payment and Receipts for the period from the 23<sup>rd</sup> September to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the payments totalling £49,748.11 and receipts totalling £128,694.87 as attached as Appendix 1.
- 2010/30     **Financial Regulations**  
It was **resolved** that the Financial Regulations are amended and adopted as detailed in the Executive Officer's Report and as attached as Appendix 2.
- 2010/31     **Virement of Funds for purchase of vehicle**  
The Deputy Executive Officer informed members that Full Council agreed a budget of £5,000 during the setting of the Precept and that a non-refundable deposit of £400.00 had been put on a van after consultation with the committee members of the Finance and Personnel.
- Cllr Capon felt that the Chairman had no authority to put a deposit down and that the decision was rushed and there was not an official meeting. He felt that there should have been an extraordinary meeting. Cllr Biederman responded that there was a majority, the deposit was

put down to secure a van. It was in good faith and if Cllr Capon had any concerns there are procedures to follow in relation to any complaint.

Cllr Crawford raised a point of order and asked not to be interrupted. Cllr I Crawford felt that he did not have an opportunity or sufficient time to investigate options and neighbouring Councils have started having electricity. He felt that a diesel vehicle was not acceptable and especially since the Council had declared a Climate Emergency.

Cllr Kingdom feels confident that the officers have found a vehicle that is acceptable and is the best price for what is needed.

Cllr Kingdom proposed that the Ford Transit from North Devon Van Centre is purchased for £7,995.

Cllr Capon felt that was no issue with the officer but that there have been no options given to committee. He felt that the committee needed to consider CO2 Emissions and ongoing maintenance costs and asked whether we have looked at leasing?

Cllr Goodger explained that she understood that the Council's finances have been hit and that an option could be that the van is purchased but when upgraded or exchanged a more environmentally friendly vehicle is purchased.

The Chairman explained that he had had conversations with the Executive Officer regarding the vehicle but Cllr Capon felt that these conversations should have been with all committee members and that the information sent to members did not display that it was a diesel vehicle and he was concerned about how it would be perceived by the public.

Cllr Crawford proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Capon and on being put to the vote, it was **resolved** with 3 votes for and 2 against that alternative options including leasing, biogas and petrol is investigated and up to £10,000.

Cllr Capon asked for the votes to be recorded.

For: Cllr Crawford, Capon and Goodger.

Against: Cllr Biederman and Kingdom.

The Deputy Executive Officer said that the meeting was unable to continue as there was another committee meeting and that she would send an Agenda for an Extra-ordinary meeting next week.

Meeting ended at 11.31am.