

Chairs report, September 2021

Finance & Performance Committee

Welcome to the Finance and Performance Committee meeting for September 2021.

The current COVID 19 restrictions for Level 2 bring about some disruptions to “Business as usual” for all of our district and the meetings of Council and its committees are no exception. The ability for us all to meet around the Council table is still restricted and whilst ‘ZOOM’ provides an alternative, I believe it provides its own challenges to having robust discussions, full participation and clear understanding of everyone’s point of view. However, it ‘is what it is’ as a previous CE would say and we will use what we have to the best of our abilities.

The Events Sponsorship Scheme comes back to the Finance & Performance Committee for deliberations today and the utilisation of Smarty Grants provides a useful tool to collate all of the assessments and feedback. The increased funding available will undoubtedly bring about increased funding request amounts from a variety of applicants. But it will also allow Council to increase its support to events held within our district to ensure their success and longevity. It will always be a challenge to fund them all to the full amount requested (having 2 funding rounds over the 12 month period) and that is where the deliberations are critical. Two external assessors have provided input into the assessment process. They were included because of their extensive knowledge and experience of funding applications on a national basis. I would like to take this opportunity to recommend that they have the ability to add to the discussion when we meet for our next funding round.

Council’s financial position is reported in today’s order paper and some of the figures may be challenging to interpret due to only 2 months of results. Mr Tombs has provided some commentary on the results and no doubt there will be some more provided at today’s meeting.

Nigel Belsham

Finance & Performance Committee Chair