



**Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of the Finance and General Purposes
Committee held on Monday 25th January 2021 via Zoom**

Commenced: 6.30pm - Concluded: 6.50pm

Councillors Present: Kamran Latif [Chair], Zafar Ali and Mashuq Hussain

Absent Councillors: Husnan Arshad, Wayne Blackburn, Nazeem Hayat, Mohammad Sakib and Ikram Ul-Haq.

Non-Councillor (without voting rights): None.

Observing Councillors (not a member of the committee): None.

Officers: Nick Harbour – Assistant Town Clerk [minute taker].

Members of the Public: None.

2020/059
(FGP)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Assistant Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

No apologies were received for the meeting.

2020/060
(FGP)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from members on matters to be considered at the meeting. Officers are required to make a formal declaration about council contracts where the employee has a financial interest.

None declared.

2020/061
(FGP)

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes to allow members of the public to make representation on the business of the agenda for the meeting. No resolutions can be under public participation.

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

2020/062
(FGP)

HOME SCHOOLING PROJECT

To consider financial assistance to help schools supply students with adequate devices for home schooling due to Covid-19. Three quotes have been received from local companies for these devices. The Home Schooling Working Group at the last Full Council meeting have requested that Councillors use their unspent Ward Initiative Funding balance to contribute towards this cost.

At the last Full Council meeting, a working group was formed to look at ways the Council can

assist local schools with the provision of IT equipment for students having to learn from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many schools in Nelson are experiencing difficulties in providing the necessary devices students need to continue learning from home. The working group proposed to the Finance committee that the Council could assist financially and asked that they considered funding 56 new devices from the special projects budget. Three local companies had provided quotes for the devices needed, however they were struggling to get them from suppliers quickly enough. John Lewis were contacted for a quote who did have the required number in stock so Members were also asked to consider this quote.

Proposed by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Latif, and

RESOLVED: That the Council provide funding for the 56 laptops as requested by the working group and approve the quote from John Lewis for £12,319.44 (£219.99 per device).

- A letter will be drafted to all schools who receive the devices stating that the school will be responsible for managing and maintenance of the devices
- A letter will be drafted and sent to all parents of the students who receive one of the devices stating that Nelson Town Council provided it
- Stickers will be placed on each device stating that it was provided by Nelson Town Council