

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **POLICY, RESOURCES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 26 January 2010**

(7.00pm – 8.45pm)

Present:

Steve Hawker - Chairman
Philip Chandler
Clive Davis
Bridget Dollard
Tony Fife
Dave Gooding
John Grana

Dave Greene
Andrew Kendall
Pat Martin
Tom Parsley
David Recardo
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Alan Tawse – Town Clerk
Tony Lock – Yeovil East Ward

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/217 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 November 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/218 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Wes Read.

7/219 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7/220 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

7/221 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

(a) Sutton Bingham and District Canoe Club

RESOLVED that a grant of £1,000 be awarded towards the costs of purchasing a fleet of specialist boats (S.19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – as amended).

7/222 **CAPITAL FUND**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 6 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the position concerning the Capital Fund be noted; and
- (2) that the current position regarding the rolling programme of play area improvements be noted.

7/223 **BIRCHFIELD PARK - LIGHTING**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 7 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, Members considered the merits of the project and the alternative funding options identified in the report to meet the additional contribution proposed by the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee, which it was noted had already allocated £3,720 from its Community Safety budget towards the estimated cost of the lighting improvements.

Whilst there was general support for contributing towards the costs involved in the implementation of the initiative, there was some concern at making a substantial contribution beyond that currently being sought by South Somerset District Council. However, it was acknowledged that early confirmation of contributions from partner organisations would enhance the likelihood of the District Council capital bid succeeding.

The Town Clerk drew attention to the current balance of the Contingencies Fund and indicated that whilst it was difficult to predict what additional calls might be made on the Fund in the remaining two months of the current financial year, past experience suggested that there should be sufficient to meet unforeseen expenditure and the contribution being sought by the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee.

It was noted that confirmed contributions from partner organisations (including the Town Council) currently totalled £11,720 and that the estimated cost of the lighting element of the project amounted to £13,000.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given an additional allocation of £1,280 towards the project, the costs of which to be met from the 2009/10 Contingencies Fund.

7/224 **PROMOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 8 refers).

Members noted the comments expressed by all the service committees on the matter, and supported the need for a wide-ranging review to be undertaken ahead of this year's Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May.

In response to a query, the Town Clerk gave an update on the planned review of the Council's Standing Orders, and drew attention to the impending publication of new Model Standing Orders by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which would assist the deliberations of the Working Group set up to undertake that review and report back to the Town Council by October 2010.

RESOLVED

- (1) that, subject to the approval of the Town Council, a comprehensive review be undertaken of all of the Council's service committees to establish whether all four committees are necessary and whether the responsibilities are equitably spread and correctly allocated; and
- (2) that, assuming this proposal is supported, a working group comprising the Chairmen of the four service committees, the Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and the Mayor, be requested to undertake the review and report its findings back to the April 2010 meeting of the Town Council.

7/225 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

The Committee considered the report of the Finance Administrator (Agenda item 9 refers).

In response to a query, the Town Clerk undertook to check the current water charging arrangements at the former Ski and Activity Centre.

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statements and payments therein for the above months be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/226 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

7/227 INTERNAL AUDIT

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 10 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the proposals set out in the above report.

Chairman

27/01/10
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