

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 30 March 2010**

(7.00pm – 8.45pm)

Present:

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

Dave Greene
Andrew Kendall
Tom Parsley
Wes Read
David Recardo
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Alan Tawse – Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Margaret Hamilton, Secretary of the Art Group of Yeovil, spoke in support of that Organisation's application for grant assistance. She outlined the history of the Group and drew attention to its aims and objectives and its forthcoming activities and events. Gerald Hann, Vice-Chairman of the Group, referred to the way in which the Organisation had helped him develop his interest and ability in art.

7/228 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 January 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/229 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dave Gooding and Pat Martin.

7/230 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Tom Parsley declared a personal interest in Agenda item 5 (Applications for Grant Aid – The Art Group of Yeovil) by virtue of the fact that a number of their members were existing customers of his business.

7/231 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

7/232 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

- (a) South Somerset Association for Voluntary and Community Action Ltd

RESOLVED that a grant of £1,500 be awarded towards core running costs (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

- (b) Girlguiding Yeovil Division – Bright Sparks

RESOLVED that a guarantee against loss up to a maximum of £1,000 be awarded towards the production of a planned show. (S.145 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

(John Grana requested that his vote against the passing of the above resolution be recorded)

- (c) Superact CIC

RESOLVED that no action be taken regarding this application.

- (d) The Art Group of Yeovil

RESOLVED that a grant of £1,000 be awarded towards the costs of the Organisation promoting and developing its activities, with a view to the Group increasing its membership across all sections of the community. (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

7/233 CAPITAL FUND

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

During the ensuing discussion, Members considered the merits of the options available to deal with a VAT liability issue that had arisen in respect of the Town Council's agreed contribution towards the redevelopment of Milford Community Hall.

Whilst it was acknowledged that an "opt to tax" approach would enable the Town Council to recover the VAT payable on this contribution, it was felt that it was in the long-term interests of hall users that VAT was not charged on future hirings.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the position concerning the Capital Fund be noted;
- (2) that the advice received in respect of the VAT liability of the agreed contribution towards the redevelopment of Milford Community Hall be noted and, in the circumstances, the proposed contribution of £85,000 from the Town Council be made inclusive of VAT; and
- (3) that the current position regarding the rolling programme of play area improvements be noted.

7/234 **SERVICE COMMITTEES REVIEW**

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

During the ensuing discussion, Members considered the merits of the proposals put forward by the Working Group – including the possibility of extending the cycle of meetings of various committees.

Whilst most of the proposals were supported, it was generally felt that extending the committee cycle would result in unacceptable delays in referring matters to these committees for action thereby impairing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Council, and would only save a relatively small amount of money.

RECOMMENDED

- (1) that the proposal to disband the Promotions and Activities Committee be not supported;
- (2) that the points that emerged from the discussion by the Working Group and the suggested changes to the current terms of reference of each of the four service committees be supported; and
- (3) that the merits of the service committees (except the Planning and Licensing Committee) and the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee meeting on a quarterly rather than a bi-monthly basis, or on a rolling monthly cycle, be noted.

(John Grana requested that his vote against the passing of the above resolution (1) be recorded)

7/235 **RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2010/11**

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

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the style of minute recording adopted by the Town Council and the procedure by which the accuracy of minutes was confirmed.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the draft revised risk management strategy for 2010/11 be adopted; and
- (3) that the Committee is satisfied that the internal audit arrangements that are in place are effective and meet the Council's legal obligations.

7/236 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DECEMBER 2009/JANUARY 2010**

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

RESOLVED

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no further comments from members of the public.

7/237 **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.

7/238 **STAFFING ISSUES**

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the Committee's congratulations be conveyed to the member of staff concerned on her successful achievements.

Chairman

31/03/10
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