

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 29 September 2009**

(7.00pm – 8.35pm)

Present:

Steve Hawker – Chairman
Philip Chandler
Bridget Dollard
Tony Fife
Dave Gooding
John Grana

Dave Greene
Pat Martin
Tom Parsley
Wes Read
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Simon Hester – Yeovil South Ward
Alan Tawse – Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/193 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 July 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/194 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Clive Davis, Andrew Kendall and David Recardo.

7/195 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

7/196 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

7/197 **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID**

(a) Oddments Theatre Company

The applicant addressed the meeting in support of the application and answered various questions.

RESOLVED that a grant of £350 be awarded towards the purchase of a projector and screen. (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).

(b) Somerset Area Cruse Bereavement Care

RESOLVED that a grant of £750 be awarded towards the annual running costs of the Organisation. (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

7/198 **CAPITAL FUND**

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

During the ensuing discussion, Members commented on the response of the District Council's Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer regarding the possibility of using a S106 contribution arising from a nearby new development towards the costs of the proposed upgrade of the play area at the Monks Dale Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the current position concerning the Capital Fund be noted;
- (2) that the present position regarding the disposal of the former Goldcroft Allotment site and the marketing of the former Ski and Activity Centre be noted;
- (3) that the steps taken by the Town Clerk to secure the necessary funds by way of a fixed-rate loan to fulfil the Council's financial commitments, be noted;
- (4) that the District Council's response to the possible use of the anticipated S106 contribution towards the funding of the proposed upgrade of the play area at the Monks Dale Recreation Ground be noted, and the Town Clerk arrange for the conditions of the relevant planning decision to be checked with a view to establishing the agreed purpose and application of this contribution; and
- (5) that in the event that this contribution cannot be used for this purpose, the funding of the Town Council's contribution towards the upgrade be considered as part of the forthcoming budget process.

7/199 **NALC LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS' ASSEMBLY**

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the current position concerning the Capital Fund be noted; and

- (2) that no action be taken regarding the representation of the Town Council at the above Assembly.

7/200 **INTERNAL AUDIT**

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

RESOLVED

that the successful completion of the 2008/09 Internal Audit be noted.

7/201 **FINANCE WORKING GROUP**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 9 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Finance Working Group be re-appointed for the forthcoming budget exercise with the following remit:

To help develop the Council's capital and revenue funding and expenditure plans, and to make recommendations on such matters to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee;

- (2) that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee and the Mayor be appointed to serve on the Working Group; and
- (3) that the draft budgets be circulated to all Committee Chairmen ahead of the Working Group's meeting to enable any comments that they may wish to make to be fed into their deliberations on the matter.

7/202 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – JUNE/JULY 2009**

The Committee considered the report of the Finance Administrator (Agenda item 10 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the need to amend various fields in the SAGE software system to reflect the current capital/revenue budgets, and to the benefits of the Finance Administrator attending occasional meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Financial Statements and payments therein for the above months be approved; and
- (2) that arrangements be made for the Finance Administrator to attend meetings of the Committee on a six-monthly basis.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/203 **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.

7/204 **FORMER SKI AND ACTIVITY CENTRE**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 11 refers).

Members discussed the contents of a letter received on the previous day from the Chairman of the Trustees of the Yeovil Community Church, and commented on the financial proposals put forward in the letter.

The Town Clerk outlined the outcome of a discussion that had taken place earlier that day with the Council's appointed agent on the proposals.

A number of additional issues were identified at the meeting for inclusion in a proposed lease.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the Church be requested to clarify ahead of the forthcoming Town Council meeting their position regarding the various proposals discussed during the last meeting between the Town Council's Steering Group and the representatives of the Church, and the additional issues identified at the meeting; and
- (3) that their response be reported to the Town Council following which consideration be given to the appointment of a committee to oversee further discussions with representatives of the Church on all of these proposals and to instruct the relevant officers to undertake negotiations on behalf of the Town Council.

Chairman

30/09/09
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