

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 2nd December 2013 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Ms C Atherton CC (Chair), I J Body, Mrs R D Brock, O K Cramp, Mrs M Davies, S D Eva, Mrs V E Eva, G F Evans CC, A J Jewell CC, Ms D E Merrett, Mrs P A Minson, B M A Ross and D W Saunby CC.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
Mrs R N Thomas (Finance Officer)

F4344 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Chappel (holiday), Chin- Quee (work) and Gray (work).

F4345 **INTERESTS**

None received.

F4346 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Body, seconded by Councillor Ms Merrett and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman. Subject to the omission of Councillor Cramp from those present.

Councillors S D Eva and Mrs V E Eva requested that their names be recorded as having abstained from voting.

F4347 **GRANTS**

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Mrs Brock and

RESOLVED that consideration of the grant request from the organiser of St. Piran's Day Parade- Falmouth be deferred for them to attend to answer Members questions in respect of the request.

A MOTION proposed by Councillor Body and seconded by Councillor Mrs Minson that a grant award of £175 be made was withdrawn. A MOTION proposed by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor S D Eva that no grant award be made was withdrawn.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Ms Merrett and

RESOLVED that consideration of the grant request by Specsavers Falmouth for a community defibrillator be deferred for them to attend to answer members questions in respect of the request.

A MOTION proposed by Councillor Mrs Minson and seconded by Mrs Davies that a grant of £250 be made was withdrawn.

It was proposed by Councillor S D Eva, seconded by Councillor Mrs Minson and

RESOLVED that the grant request from Merlin Multiple Sclerosis Centre for £250 be refused as it had not demonstrated the specific benefits of the grant to Falmouth residents.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs V E Eva, seconded by Councillor Body and

RESOLVED that:

- (i) from the 1st April 2014 grant applicants will be required to attend meetings of the Committee to answer members questions in respect of their application;
- (ii) the Town Clerk and Finance Officer in consultation with the Chair to review the grant application forms.

The 2013/14 Grant Schedule to date was duly noted. Letters of thanks from grant recipients: Sea Cadets (£200), City of Truro Pipes and Drums (£500), Falmouth Classics Association (£1700), and St. Francis Church of England School (£1500) were all duly noted.

F4348 **DRAFT BUDGET 2014/15**

The Town Clerk reported a number of updates that were all duly noted. Cornwall Council had requested precept notification by 31st December 2013 requiring budget sign-off by the Town Council on 16th December 2013.

Council Tax Support Grant would be passported by Cornwall Council to Town and Parish Councils in 2014/15, the exact amount was still awaited.

The Government had advised that it was considering extending the referendum principles to Town and Parish Councils in 2014/15 (giving residents the power to veto excessive Council tax rises).

F4349 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Jewell and

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following matters (Minutes F4350 and F4351) as they involved the consideration of contractual and property matters.

F4350 **FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Chairman reported the budget recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee from its meeting on 18th November 2013 that was duly noted.

She reported further on the matters therein following meetings with the Town Clerk, the Finance Officer and others. As well as updates on two property matters.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Minson and

RESOLVED that:

- (i) given the Auction Reserve price and the poor condition of the premises, the former Women's Institute in Webber Street, Falmouth the Council does not pursue its acquisition for public meeting rooms and offices as it was not expedient to the public purse to do so;
- (ii) a secondary property matter be pursued without prejudice and Smiths Gore be engaged as the Council's agent.

F4351 **DRAFT BUDGET 2014/15**

Being cognisant of Minute F4348 the Chairman reported the draft budget recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee, this required an increase in precept from 2013/14 mainly due to the Town Council taking up service reductions by Cornwall Council and would enable the Town Council to deliver free to use and enhanced public toilets, subsidy for local bus services, retain 'gateway site' planted roundabouts, see planting and environmental enhancements, deliver local events management, deliver local public realm CCTV coverage and deliver capital works improvements to the Cemetery site and Kimberley Park.

The Town Clerk reported that whilst the draft budget incorporated much of the previously discussed aspiration of the Council it did utilise and reduce General Fund Reserves below the recommended best practice level. These were supplemented by significant Ear Marked Reserves.

A full debate ensued.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Jewell and

RESOLVED that:

- (i) subject to confirmation of Council Taxbase and the level of Council Tax Support Grant and incorporation of an Annual Grant of £1,000 to Falmouth Age Concern then the budget recommendation (attached as part of these minutes) be made to the Council that would require a precept call of £1,032,338. Equivalent to £158.16 per year per Band D property (an increase of £25.48 over the 2013/14).
- (ii) the Council increase its fees and charges across all charging areas by 2.5% from 1st April 2014.

F4352 **RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor S D Eva, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brock and

RESOLVED that the press be readmitted for the remainder of the meeting.

The Chair reported the budget recommendation at Minute F4351.

F4353 **PUBLIC REALM CCTV**

The Town Clerk reported in regards to Stakeholders efforts to ensure a local CCTV operation endured beyond Cornwall Council service withdrawal at 1st April 2014, this could potentially involve a local cost between £9,500 (the equivalent of 2013/14 monitoring costs) up to £24,000 per annum.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Merrett seconded by Councillor Mrs Brock and

RESOLVED that the Council is committed to continuing Public Realm CCTV as a local stakeholders operation and confirms that the 2014/15 budget allocation of £15,500 be utilised for monitoring and service provision costs.

F4354 **DATA PROTECTION REGISTRATION**

The Town Clerk reported that the Council had renewed its registration as a data controller under the Data Protection Act, which was duly noted.

F4355 **STANDING ORDERS**

The recommended changes to national model standing orders were duly noted and to be incorporated as appropriate into the Council's Standing Orders for the next municipal year.

F4356 **CYCLING INITIATIVES**

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Ms Merrett and

RESOLVED that Dereck Heelis co-ordinates a Falmouth Cycling Development Group to develop and liaise in respect of cycling initiatives and with the Forum's Traffic Infrastructure Group. Councillors Ms Merrett and Jewell to sit on the group.

F4357 **DRACAENA SKATEPARK**

Pursuant to Minute F4332 the Town Clerk reported that Councillor Chappel had facilitated a meeting to address anti-social behaviour associated with the shelter at this site. Cornwall Council would undertake tree works to make the site more visible and hopefully negate the need for shelter removal. The report was duly noted.

F4358 **REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

The Town Clerk advised that Councillors Register of Interest Declarations had now been published. Councillors should check the published data to ensure it was accurate and whether it needed updating. The report was duly noted.

F4359 **OFF STREET CAR PARKING**

The Chair reported upon her and Councillor Gray's meeting with Councillor Biscoe the Cornwall Council Portfolio Holder and Mr Marsh Corporate Director of Environment. Local management models could be developed but Cornwall Council would need a guaranteed level of return making changes difficult to implement and potentially risky to the public purse. Cornwall Council were trialling a countywide initiative in spring 2014. The report was duly noted.

F4360 **PUBLIC TOILETS**

The Chair reported that a conditions tour had been undertaken and works agreed prior to transfer.

F4361 **KIMBERLEY PARK**

It was proposed by Councillor S D Eva, seconded by Councillor Body and

RESOLVED that the emergency tree works recently considered by the Kimberley Park Working Party be undertaken and funded by virement of Capital Paths Works Budget for 2013/14.

F4362 **BUDGETING FORECASTING 2013/14**

The Budget forecast was presented by the Finance Officer.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Merrett, seconded by Councillor Cramp and

RESOLVED that the budget forecast be duly noted and is attached as part of these minutes.

F4363 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs V E Eva, seconded by Councillor Ms Atherton and

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules (attached) October 2013 be approved.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....