

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 8th January 2015

PRESENT

Councillors

G Baxendale
R I Brightwell
J S Crowther
G R Edwards (Chairman)
Mrs. S A Holland
D A Parker
Mrs J D Parry (Vice Chairman)
N T Price
Mrs E Wardlaw

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Bates, D T Brown L D Barker and D Murphy.

Apologies were also received from Cllrs G P Hayes and G S Williams who are not members of this particular Committee.

2. MINUTES

FAP/41/1415 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 4th December 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare both "pecuniary" and "non-pecuniary" interests as early in the meeting as they become known.

Cllr G Baxendale declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items relating to Cheshire East Council.

Cllrs R Brightwell and Mrs E Wardlaw declared a pecuniary interest in item 6 (i) and left the room when this issue was discussed.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions.

5. GRANT APPROVALS AND COMMITMENTS

A summary of grant approvals and commitments was considered by the Committee and it was noted that £10,594 is available for grants in 2014-15.

FAP/42/1415 RESOLVED that the grant summary be received.

6. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAP/43/1415 RESOLVED that:-

i. GR 20/1415 – Team Congleton

A grant of £2000 be approved.

ii. GR 21/1415 – Dane Valley Scout Group

A grant of a maximum of £1400 be approved to cover the purchase and installation of a defibrillator.

7. NEW GRANT ACTIVITIES MONITORING FORMS

Grand Activities Monitoring Forms were received from Open Space and Congleton Choral Society.

8. LETTERS OF THANKS

It was noted that a letter of thanks was received from Congleton Choral Society and St Peter's Church.

9. MANAGEMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR APRIL 2014 – NOVEMBER 2014

FAP/44/1415 RESOLVED that the Managements Accounts for November 2014 be received.

10. BANK RECONCILIATION

FAP/45/1415 RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation for November 2014 be approved.

11. LIST OF PAYMENTS

FAP/46/1415 RESOLVED that the Payments List between 1st to the 30th November 2014 be approved.

12. AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

A considerable discussion took place on the necessity of amending the Financial Regulations recommended by the working group set up to examine this issue.

FAP/47/1415 RESOLVED that the amendment of the Financial Regulations which included additional clauses 12.4 to 12.7 be approved.

13. SIMNET

A report on the latest situation regarding SimNet and the supply of the Digital Display Unit was considered along with 3 possible courses of action, which included, continuing a dialogue with the company, taking action to wind the company up or action to recover the debt.

FAP/48/1415 RESOLVED that the Clerk seek legal advice to determine whether an act of fraud has been committed by SimNet in not supplying the Unit.

In the first instance Cllr L Barker will be contacted to ascertain whether he can provide such advice directly or through his network.

14. CONGLETON POLICE

A request from Congleton Police to fund the purchase of a Mosquito Device was considered. Additionally Suzie Akers-Smith, a resident, spoke against installing such a device expressing concern at the potential harmful effects of these devices on young children.

FAP/49/1415 RESOLVED that the request for financial support for the Mosquito device be refused.

15. TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

A report on a proposal to update the Town Council website to make it mobile phone and IPAD compatible was considered.

FAP/50/1415 RESOLVED that the proposal be approved in principle, but, the costs and intended supplier, when known, would need to be approved by the Committee.

16. CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The Corporate Business Plan and Risk Assessment for 2015-16 was considered.

FAP/51/1415 RESOLVED that the Corporate Business Plan and Risk Assessment for 2015-16 be approved.

17. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2015-19 was discussed. It was pointed out that the Town Council was only forecasting very modest increase in costs and the precept in the next 4 years.

FAP/52/1415 RESOLVED that the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the 2015-19 be approved.

18. BUSINESS RISK ASSESSMENT

The Business Risk Assessment covering the next financial year was considered.

FAP/53/1415 RESOLVED that the Business Risk Assessment for 2015 be approved.

Mr. G.R. Edwards
Chairman