

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 26th March 2015

PRESENT

Councillors

L. D Barker
P. Bates
G Baxendale
R I Brightwell
D T Brown
J S Crowther
G R Edwards (Chairman)
Mrs. S A Holland
D Murphy
D A Parker
Mrs J D Parry (Vice Chairman)
N T Price

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G S Williams and Miss R K Williams, who are not members of this particular Committee.

2. MINUTES

FAP/66/1415 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19th February 2015 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

For approval - Cllrs P Bates, G Baxendale, R I Brightwell, D T Brown, G R Edwards, D Murphy, D A Parker, Mrs J D Parry.

Against Cllrs - Mrs S A Holland and N T Price

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllrs G Baxendale and D T Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council.

Cllrs P Bates and D Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (v).

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions.

5. GRANT APPROVALS AND COMMITMENTS 2014-15

A summary of grant approvals and commitments was considered by the Committee and it was noted that £5,839 is available for grants in 2014-15.

FAP/67/1415 RESOLVED that the grant summary be received.

6. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAP/68/1415 RESOLVED that:-

i. GR 25/1415 – Friends of Congleton Park

A grant of £250 be approved.

ii. GR 26/1415 – SOL Theatre School

A grant of £1000 be approved.

A letter to be sent to SOL Theatre School to request them to use any surplus generated to fund the following years productions.

iii. GR 28/1415 – Congleton Green Space Trust

A grant of £2,000 be approved to go towards purchasing squares of the allotment land.

It was noted that if the bid is unsuccessful to buy the land, the funds will be returned to the Town Council.

iv. GR 29/1415 – Bromley Farm Community Development Trust

A grant of £400 be approved.

v. GR 30/1415 – Congleton Community Credit Union

A grant of £45 be approved.

7. NEW GRANT ACTIVITIES MONITORING FORMS

It was noted that a Grant Activities Monitoring Form was received from Congleton Musical Theatre.

8. MANAGEMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR APRIL 2014 – FEBRUARY 2015

FAP/69/1415 RESOLVED that the Managements Accounts for February 2015 be received.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION

FAP/70/1415 RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation for February 2015 be received.

10. LIST OF PAYMENTS

FAP/71/1415 RESOLVED that the Payments List between 1st February 2015 and 28th February 2015 be received.

11. INSURANCE REVIEW 2015-16

The insurance review for 2015-16 was considered.

It was noted that the Community Garden on long term loan from Cheshire East Council is covered as are some other additions to the asset register at no additional cost.

FAP/72/1415 RESOLVED to approve the insurance review and note that there will be no cost increase other than for inflation built into the contract.

12. VEHICLE TRACKING

A report on various options for vehicle tracking was considered.

FAP/73/1415 RESOLVED that G Force be approved as the supplier of the Tracking system at an annual cost of £2,358.72. p.a.

13. LEASE VEHICLE

A report on leasing an additional tipper van for Streetscape was considered.

FAP/74/1415 RESOLVED that that West Wallasey be approved as the suppliers of the new vehicle at a monthly cost of £389.90

14. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Internal Audit Report 2014-15 (Interim) produced by Auditing Solutions Ltd was considered.

It was pointed out that in respect of the deposit paid for the Digital Display Unit System, the Council have acted in accordance with the terms of our Standing Orders and Financial regulations.

FAP/75/1415 RESOLVED that the Internal Audit report be received and approved and noted that there were no corrective actions required.

15. TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Jackie MacArthur, Town Centre Marketing Manager, provided an update on the proposals received for building a new Town Council website.

FAP/76/1415 RESOLVED that:-

1. A working party consisting of Cllr D T Brown, Cllr Mrs S A Holland, Cllr Mrs J D Parry, Mrs J MacArthur and Mrs S Trow be formed to approve the preferred supplier.
2. The working party to be given delegated power to approve the capital expenditure of the project and purchase of the new website up to an approved level of £9,999.

16. PUBLIC REALM

A considerable discussion took place concerning how to make a reasonable contribution towards the Public Realm Project, bearing in mind that the whole project consisted of 12 elements. Some concern was also expressed at the considerable increase in costs calculated by Ringway Jacobs.

FAP/77/1415 RESOLVED that:-

1. A contribution of £20,000 be approved to go towards the first phase of the public Realm Project.
2. £10,000 to be ear marked immediately from current reserves to go towards the contribution.
3. Status of finances in October 2015 to be reviewed again to determine when best to ear mark reserves for the other £10,000 required to make the full contribution of £20,000.

Mr. G.R. Edwards
Chairman