

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Councillors

Mrs S Akers Smith
Mrs D S Allen
Mrs A L Armitt
J G Baggott
R Boston
C Booth
D T Brown
G R Edwards (Chair)
Mrs S A Holland
Mrs A M Martin
Mrs J D Parry (Vice)
Mrs E Wardlaw (Town Mayor)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Bates.

Apologies were also received from Cllrs, H Richards and G S Williams who are not a member of this particular Committee.

2. MINUTES

FAP/29/1516 RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22nd October 2015 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.

Cllrs J G Baggott, D T Brown and Mrs E Wardlaw declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters related to Cheshire East Council.

Cllr G R Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (ii) and did not take part in any discussions on this issue.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions.

5. GRANT APPROVALS AND COMMITMENTS 2015-16

A summary of grant approvals and commitments was considered by the Committee and it was noted that £7,274 is available for grants in 2015-16.

FAP/30/1516 RESOLVED that the grant summary be received.

6. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FAP/31/1516 RESOLVED that:-

i. GR 13/1516 – Cheshire Border County Girlguiding

It was determined that this application did not meet the criteria to receive a grant, but, the applicant was to be encouraged to contact other organisations in the Town such as the Town trust to seek funding.

ii. GR 14/1516 – Congleton Pantomime

A grant of £400 be approved towards other production costs.

7. NEW GRANT ACTIVITIES MONITORING FORMS

There were no new Grant Activities monitoring forms.

8. MANAGEMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR OCTOBER 2015

FAP/32/1516 RESOLVED that the Managements Accounts for October 2015 be received.

9. BANK RECONCILIATION

FAP/33/1516 RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation for 31st October 2015 be received.

10. LIST OF PAYMENTS

FAP/34/1516 RESOLVED that the Payments List between 1st October 2015 and 31st October 2015 be received.

11. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT

A letter from Cheshire East Council was considered which confirmed that the remaining Council Tax Support Grant of £49,890 provided to the Town Council, would be removed entirely with effect from 1st April 2016. It was noted that the Government no longer provide this grant to Cheshire East Council.

FAP/35/1516 RESOLVED that the correspondence be received and its effect on the Town Council precept noted.

12. BUDGET 2016-17

The Town Clerk presented the draft budget report for 2016-17 and pointed out that the Council Tax Support Grant had now been removed entirely which has significant impact on the Town Council budget.

FAP/36/1516 RESOLVED that the budget be recommended for approval at the Town Council meeting which will take place on Thursday 3rd December 2015.

13. PRESSURE WASHER

A justification to purchase a pressure washer was considered by the members.

FAP/37/1516 RESOLVED that the purchase of a pressure washer be approved with following caveat:

1. Determine whether a secondhand or new pressure washer has the capability of removing chewing gum.
2. If, both have the capability, purchase a secondhand unit at a cost of circa £2,500.
3. If the new unit can provide this capability, but not a secondhand unit, purchase a new unit at a cost of circa £6,500.
4. Liaise with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee before making a purchase.

14. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Treasury Management Policy for 2016-17 was considered.

FAP/38/1516 RESOLVED that the policy and recommendation be approved but, the Town Clerk will investigate the rates provided by Carter Allen with the assistance of Cllr Baggott

15. INTERNET BANKING

A report produced by the Support Manager on Internet banking was discussed. It was noted that the Autopay system provided by RBS is being withdrawn, which is used to pay salaries and is being replaced with internet banking.

FAP/39/1516 RESOLVED that the application to apply for RBS Bankline be approved along with the proposed safeguards.

16. MEMORIAL TO TREO

A request to consider providing a memorial to Treo, a dog used by the Army who received an animal V.C, was considered.

FAP/40/1516 RESOLVED that the request be supported in principle, but should be incorporated in some way into the work being carried out by the Cenotaph Restoration Group.

17. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

CES/22/1516 RESOLVED that the Town Council employ and Assistant Cook to complement the staff at the Luncheon Club at a cost of about £4,000 per annum.

THC/16/1516 RESOLVED that the additional expenditure of £1,800 for the fire alarm system be approved.

A considerable debate took place concerning the value that was derived from supporting the Luncheon Club at Fellowship House, and in particular how to encourage more elderly members of the community to attend to derive greater value.

FAP/41/1516 RESOLVED that:-

1. Expenditure from both committees be approved.
2. The Assistant Cook to be offered a 12 month contract.
3. In 12 months' time the value derived from the Luncheon Club to be reviewed.

G R Edwards
Chairman