

OPEN SESSION: There were no members of the public present.

## **MINUTES OF THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2004 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr N J Chard (Chairman)  
Cllr P Chambers  
Cllr N G R Clarke  
Cllr D E Cracknell  
Cllr N W Light  
Cllr B H Terry

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Town Clerk  
Lyn Wickens, Personal Assistant to Town Clerk

### **F/3606 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr M H Thierry, Cllr W S Rippon-Swaine and Cllr S C Wright.

### **F/3607 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **F/3608 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2004, having been previously circulated, be agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **F/3609 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

### **F/3610 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS (*Annex 'A'*)**

#### **a) Schedule of Monthly Payments – February 2004**

i) No. 1 Account

**RESOLVED:** That the Schedule be AGREED.

ii) Imprest Account

**RESOLVED:** That the Schedule be AGREED.

**b) Cheques for signature**

Cllrs Cracknell and Light signed the following cheques:

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Item/Service</b>
002066	B. Mackie	£208.75	Wages
002067	HAPTC	£1,004.00	Affiliation Fees

**c) Petty Cash Statement**

**RESOLVED:** That the Petty Cash Statement be AGREED.

**d) Inter-Account Transfers**

Members received a Statement of Inter-Account Transfers for March 2004.

**RESOLVED:** That the transfers be AGREED. Cllrs Chard and Light duly signed the report.

**e) Statement of Town Council Balances**

**RESOLVED:** That the Statement be RECEIVED and NOTED.

**F/3611**

**APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID**

The Town Clerk reminded members that £4,200 had been budgeted for Grant Aid for the year 2004/05 and that it had been agreed to consider grant applications in April, June, September, November, February and March.

Since the circulation of the agenda, an application for grant aid had been received from Avon Valley Concerts. It was agreed to consider the application under this agenda item.

**i) Hampshire Children & Families Forum**

Members considered an application for grant aid from the New Forest West HCFF towards the production costs of a HCFF Directory of Services for Children under 14 and their families.

**RESOLVED:** that on this occasion, an award be not be made for grant aid towards the production costs of a HCFF Directory of Services for Children under 14 and their families.

**ii) New Forest & Romsey Victim Support**

New Forest West & Romsey Victim Support had requested grant aid to assist with ongoing training costs of volunteers, their supervision, travelling and telephone expenses.

**RESOLVED:** that on this occasion, an award be not be made to New Forest & Romsey Victim Support to assist with ongoing training costs of volunteers, their supervision, travelling and telephone expenses.

### **iii) Avon Valley Concerts**

Members considered an application from Avon Valley Concerts for grant aid towards the cost of a series of 6 classical music concerts in Ringwood and Fordingbridge from September 2004 to March 2005 given by artists of national and international standing.

**RESOLVED:** that an award of £250 be made to Avon Valley Concerts towards the cost of a series of 6 classical music concerts in Ringwood and Fordingbridge from September 2004 to March 2005 given by artists of national and international standing.

### **F/3612**

#### **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

A letter from Nick Raynsford MP, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, regarding the payment of allowances for parish councillors was received.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Mayor respond to the letter in the strongest possible terms, deploring the inequity of non-payment of allowances for co-opted members.

### **F/3613**

#### **CCTV**

Members considered the draft outline of New Forest District Council's bi-annual report to GOSE and whether there were any other issues that should be included. The Town Clerk also reported on the changes proposed to the questionnaire following comments made by the Town Council.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the Clerk responds and enquires as to the cost/benefit to date of CCTV to the people of Ringwood.
- (ii) that the District Council be advised that the Town Council considers that due regard has not been had to the comments made previously on the draft questionnaire and requests that further amendments be made in line with the observations.

### **F/3614**

#### **SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS**

The Chairman reminded members that the report and recommendations prepared by Cllr Clarke (see Annex A to Planning, Town & Environment Committee dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2004) had already been endorsed by other committees. The Town Clerk reiterated that he would ascertain whether Developers' Contributions would be available to fund preparation of the Town Plan. He said that for this reason and because of manpower implications, it would be more appropriate to defer commencement of this work until later in the year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

- 1) that Cllr Clarke be thanked for his very informative report.
- 2) that the Town Clerk obtain as soon as possible, the exact amount of developers' contributions held by the District Council in respect of Ringwood.
- 3) That the Council press New Forest District Council for a full and timely discharge of the Protocol for Developers Contributions, including a current statement of account and regular update on additional contributions flowing from planning decisions that generate Section 106 contributions.
- 4) That a simple schedule of charges and indicative permissible developments be produced for the information of Councillors.

- 5) That the Council, once the quantum of our Developers Contributions is known, actively develop a list of schemes suitable for funding via this fund.
- 6) That the Council convey to New Forest District Council its willingness to participate in any review of Public Open Spaces as required by PPG 17 and to agree a timetable for carrying out such a review.
- 7) That the Council should commit itself to starting the process of a Town Plan during the Financial Year to ensure that any proposals for funded schemes for Public Open Spaces are placed in the context of town wide views.

**F/3615**

**NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Light be appointed to replace Cllr Wright as the Town Council's representative on the above Association.

**F/3616**

**ZURICH LOCAL COUNCIL ADVISORY SERVICE – ANNUAL HEALTH & SAFETY SEMINAR**

The Clerk advised that the Deputy Town Clerk would be attending this seminar on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004 in Dorchester. However, he felt it would be useful to members if a Councillor attended. Cllr Clarke asked whether the Grounds Manager would benefit from attending the seminar.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that Cllr Cracknell and one other councillor from the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee attend the LCAS Health & Safety Seminar in Dorchester on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004.
- (ii) that, at the discretion of the Town Clerk, the Grounds Manager also be authorised to attend.

**F/3617**

**HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS**

Members were asked for items for the Annual General Meeting of the HAPTC on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council put forward an agenda item regarding payment of allowances for co-opted members for the Annual General Meeting of the HAPTC on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

**F/3618**

**URGENT BUSINESS**

There was one item of urgent business which the Town Clerk wished to raise after the exclusion of public and press.

**F/3619**

**EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:** That, under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the press be excluded from the meeting of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.  
(*Confidential Annex 'A'*).

**F/3820**

**POULNER LAKES – ACCESS**

The Clerk requested the consent of members to pursue the appropriate legal action to establish the Town Council's total title to the land at present under no ownership.

**RESOLVED:** that solicitors be instructed to regularise the Council's title to the access road to land at Poulner Lakes.

**F/3621**

**UNAUTHORISED ACCESS FROM 3 KESTREL COURT TO THE SOUTHAMPTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk takes the appropriate legal action to stop access onto the Southampton Road allotment site by owners/occupiers of an adjacent property.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.*