

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

MINUTES OF THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 17th November 2004 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr N J Chard (Chairman)
Cllr P Chambers
Cllr N G R Clarke
Cllr N W Light
Cllr W S Rippon-Swaine
Cllr Mrs V A Sullivan
Cllr M H Thierry

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Town Clerk
Jo Stannard, Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr D E Cracknell

F/3700 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr L C Ford and Cllr B H Terry.

F/3701 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Thierry declared a non-prejudicial personal interest in the application for grant aid from Ringwood Rotary Club as he is a member of the Club. He remained in the meeting to speak and vote.

F/3702 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2004, having been previously circulated, be agreed and signed as a correct record.

F/3703 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Summary Budget Reports (Annex 'A')

Members received summary budget reports for the 7-month period from April to October 2004. It was noted that the Policy and Finance Committee budget was underspent against the period budget. The Town Clerk explained that this was due to an underspend on members' allowances (not all members had taken up the allowance), employee costs (under establishment by one groundsman) and building works which had not yet been carried out.

RESOLVED: That the summary budget reports be approved.

b) Cheque payments on No.1 account (Annex 'B')

RESOLVED: That the list of cheque payments on the No. 1 account be approved.

c) Cheque payments on Imprest Account (Annex 'C')

RESOLVED: That the list of cheque payments on the Imprest account be approved.

d) Petty Cash Statement (Annex 'D')

RESOLVED: That the list of Petty Cash payments be approved.

e) Inter-Account Transfers (Annex 'E')

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

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

f) Statement of Town Council Balances (Annex 'F')

Cllr Clarke asked if he was correct in assuming that the Council would make a net gain of approximately £40,000 at year-end. The Town Clerk explained that this was mainly due to a receipt of developers' contributions, which could not be budgeted for. Cllr Clarke then asked if the Council should budget for possible receipt of s.106 monies when setting the precept this year. The Town Clerk said that it was not possible to do this. In addition, he explained that any money received for maintenance would be paid into reserves and taken out over a 10-year period, as had been previously agreed.

RESOLVED: That the statement be received and noted.

F/3704

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

i) Ringwood Rotary Club

Ringwood Rotary Club had applied for a grant of £150 towards expenses in connection with Christmas Eve activities held in Ringwood Market Place. Cllr Mrs Sullivan queried the collections undertaken by the Rotary Club during the Christmas period. Cllr Thierry explained that money raised from collections was given to local charities and that no collection took place on Christmas Eve.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £150 be awarded to Ringwood Rotary Club towards Christmas Eve activities.

ii) Ringwood & District Community Association

Ringwood & District Community Association had applied for a grant of £150 towards the restoration of an arch-top window at the rear of Greyfriars. Cllr Thierry said that he was not in favour of awarding grants to bricks and mortar projects. However, Cllr Rippon-Swaine said that the building was part of the environment and architectural heritage of the Town and that it provides accommodation for a large number of groups in the town.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £150 be awarded to Ringwood & District Community Association towards the restoration of an arch-top window at the rear of Greyfriars.

iii) Forest Forge Theatre Company

Forest Forge Theatre Company had applied for a grant of £500 towards youth theatre events, professional performances and running costs of the company. Cllr Thierry commented that the Company had carried forward an amount in excess of £500,000 in 2004, however it was noted that this amount appeared to relate to fixed assets.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £500 be awarded to Forest Forge Theatre Company towards youth theatre events, professional performances and running costs of the Company.

**F/3705
GREENWAYS**

The Town Clerk reported that he had asked Mr R Sheerin to look at the front of the building and estimate a cost for repair. Mr Sheerin thought it possible that a lintel may need replacing, however it would not be possible to know exactly what work was required until the brickwork was removed and the lintel exposed. Costs could be anything in the region of £400 to £4000.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That a preliminary investigation contract be awarded to Mr Sheerin to allow for temporary making good and waterproofing whilst going out to tender for the necessary works required to repair the building.
- 2) That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee be authorised to accept a tender up to the value of £4,000 for the necessary works required to repair the building.

**F/3706
NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Members had been asked to consider whether or not they wished to support the candidate put forward by Milford-on-Sea Parish Council for the New Forest National Park Authority. However, the Town Clerk reported that there would be other candidates put forward and suggested that the Council's representatives on the New Forest Association of Local Councils, Cllrs Clarke and Light, be given delegated authority to vote for the most suitable candidate.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Cllrs Clarke and Light be given delegated authority to vote for the most suitable candidate for the New Forest National Park Authority.
- 2) That the Town Clerk arrange for an email to be sent to all Parish and Town Councils in Area 2 asking if they would be putting forward a candidate.

**F/3707
URGENT BUSINESS**

Town Council Website

Cllr Clarke asked if any funds had been allocated for the development of the Town Council website, and it was noted that this would be included in the wish list for the 2005/06 budget which would be presented at the next meeting. The Town Clerk said that the District Council had not produced what was promised when the Town Council moved its website under the NFDC umbrella and therefore the development of the site was being looked into.

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

**F/3708
EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

F/3709
RINGWOOD MARKET

The Clerk gave members an update on a meeting held with Mr Morant, the market operator.

RESOLVED: That the report of the meeting be noted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40pm.