

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE TRING TOWN
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING, ON**

MONDAY
9th MARCH 2009 at 8.35 p.m.

Present: Councillors: J. S. Allan (in the chair)
B. F. Batchelor (sub. for C. F. Townsend)
L. J. Harris
Mrs P. J. Hearn
M. J. James (ex officio)

Also present: Councillor: N. A. Hollinghurst
Mrs R. L. Ransley

Mrs S. Johnson, Clerk of the Council
No members of the public

14901. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Townsend. Councillor Batchelor substituted for him.

14902. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

14903. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 19th January 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

14904. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Arising from Minute 14833, Dacorum Borough Council had sent its decisions regarding this Council's applications for funds from the Concurrent Services budget 2009/10. It had refused the application for funds to install an additional notice board in Dolphin Square; it had refused any increase in funds to maintain DBC notice boards as per the Agency Agreement; and had granted £18,175 for Warden Expenses, which was exactly a 2.45% increase as opposed to the rounded-up figure of £18,200. Furthermore, the Tax Resource Base for Tring was not that given to aid calculation in October 2008, which had resulted in the Band D equivalent being £22.96 instead of the expected £22.98. The Committee noted these decisions.

14905. **GRANTS 2008/09**

A letters of thanks had been received from the Hospice of St. Francis; mention had been made of the grant in its newsletter. Under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council **RESOLVED** to make the following grants:

- (i) To Dacorum Citizens Advice Bureau, the sum of £500 to buy head-sets for use with its new telephone system.
- (ii) To Tring Beavers Swimming Club, the sum of £150 towards hire charges for use of Tring Sports Centre pool.
- (iii) To Tring in Transition, the sum of £200 towards a booklet for every Tring household giving ideas for energy-saving measures.
- (iv) To the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, the sum of £245 (being the balance of the 2008/09 budget) towards its running expenses.

The application from Tring Farmers' Market for a grant towards publicity for its 10th anniversary had been withdrawn prior to the meeting.

14906. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2008/09**

The Budget v. Actual statement to 28th February 2009 was noted.

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14907. **INTERNAL AUDIT 2008/09**

The Clerk reported that the visit of the Internal Auditor due to take place on 2nd February 2009 had been thwarted by weather conditions. The visit would now take place on 24th March 2009; and the second visit to check the end-of-year accounts on 23rd June 2009.

14908. **RISK ASSESSMENTS AND HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY: REVIEW 2008/09**

The Council's Health & Safety at Work Policy, and its Risk Assessments with very small amendments, had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee had examined the documents and was content to adopt them, as presented.

14909. **THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STANDING ORDERS: REVIEW 2008/09**

The Committee had examined the FSOs adopted at the Council meeting on 17th March 2008 Minute 14411 and considered no amendments were necessary at present.

14910. **THE COUNCIL'S POLICIES**

The Clerk had circulated draft versions of six recommended Policies not yet adopted: Equality & Diversity; Recruitment; Policy & Procedure for Information Requests; Information Security; Records Management; and Data Protection. With very minor additions/amendments, the Committee **RESOLVED** to adopt the Policies as circulated.

14911. **10-YEAR PLAN**

The Committee decided it was premature to consider revising the 10-year Plan adopted in 2007. The Plan would run forward until 2010 and its contents reconsidered then.

14912. **THE GREEN SEMINAR FOR 2009 FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**

RESOLVED: to authorise the attendance of the Chairman at the NALC seminar on 'Green Matters' on Friday 27th March 2009 at Aylesbury in the sum of £52.17 plus travelling expenses.

14913. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS**

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Batchelor, **SECONDED** by Councillor James and **RESOLVED:** That under Section I of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded during the Items in Part II of the agenda for this meeting, because it was likely that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business or for other special reasons arising from the nature of the business or proceedings.

14914. **ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD**

The Committee considered the four nominations it had received for the Annual Community Award; and, after a thorough debate, decided on the 2009 recipient. The Award would be presented at the ATM to be held at 8 p.m. on Monday 27th April 2009 at the Victoria Hall, Akeman Street.

The meeting ended at 9.02 p.m.

Chairman