

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

**MONDAY**

**7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 at 7.55 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors: J. S. Allan (in the Chair)  
B. F. Batchelor (sub. for L. J. Harris)  
Mrs P. J. Hearn  
C. F. Townsend

**Also present:** Councillor: N. A. Hollinghurst  
  
Mrs S. Johnson, Clerk of the Council  
No members of the public

15134. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harris (substitute Councillor Batchelor) and Mrs Ransley.

15135. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none relating to this meeting. However the Chairman and Councillors Mrs Hearn and Hollinghurst, as Trustees of Tring Youth Project, had omitted to declare personal interests in relation to the grant given to TYP at the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 (Minutes 15038 and 15042 refer), and did so now.

15136. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15137. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Arising from Minute 15045, the Council's Public Liability cover had been increased to £10m.  
Arising from Minute 15046, the account with Barclays Bank would have been opened on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2009, with an investment of £100,000 on to its Treasury Reserve, had the bank not required yet another form to be filled in. It was hoped to open the account shortly when all the signatures required had been obtained.  
Arising from Minute 15047, the PWLB loan for 'allotments' had been paid off on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at a net cost of £914.34.

15138. **GRANTS 2009/10**

Letters of thanks had been received from Tring Together, The Salvation Army, Tring Environmental Forum, the Justice & Peace Group, and the 2457 (Tring) Squadron ATC.

Under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council **RESOLVED** to make a grant to the 1066 Club for blind and partially sighted people of £150 towards their running costs.

Under S19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Council **RESOLVED** to make a grant to the Tring Bowls Club of £480 to enable them to buy four sets of woods specifically designed for children's use.

It was further decided not to make a grant or pledge to the Herts Rural Transport Partnership towards the running costs of the Chilterns Rambler bus service in 2009/10 as there was no demonstrable interest from Tring people in the service, nor would it bring economic advantage to the town.

15139. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2009/10**

The Budget v. Actual statements to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and to date were noted.  
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15140. **OLD SCHOOL YARD BUSINESS RATES**

The arrangements for obtaining deferral of payment of rates increased this year by the removal of transitional relief had been published on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. Minute 15088(iv) of the Buildings & Assets Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009 referred. The amounts involved and the administration required did not justify deferring payment for anything but large amounts. As the Council's additional obligation was moderate (c. £1,000), its ability to pay without question, and the first instalment already paid, the Committee agreed that the total obligation should be paid in the 2009/10 financial year.

15141. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2008/09**

The Opinion of the External Auditor had not yet been received, despite the date for completion of the Audit being passed. The Committee resented the casual attitude of the External Auditor to deadlines when it imposed such rigorous standards on parish councils. The Clerk was asked to write accordingly to the External Auditors, copying the letter to the Audit Commission. Should the Opinion be received before Council on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009, it would be reported there.

15142. **NALC/HAPTC CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS**

- (i) No councillor wished to attend the NALC Larger Local Councils' Conference on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 in London.
- (ii) The Committee authorised the Chairman (as Council Leader) and the Clerk to attend the Business Matters Seminar at Hertford Town Council on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at a cost of £90 plus travelling expenses. The Mayor was unable to attend, although invited.
- (iii) Following preparation of the agenda, Councillor Jameson requested funding to attend the Chilterns AONB Planning Conference on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at Benson, Oxfordshire. The Committee agreed to fund the £30 fee plus travelling.

15143. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS**

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Townsend, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Hearn 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.

15144. **STAFFING MATTERS**

- (i) The negotiations concerning the National Pay Settlement for 2009/10 were still on-going.
- (ii) The Clerk would convene a meeting of the Staffing Working Party as soon as possible to discuss recruitment.

The meeting ended at 8.33 p.m.

Chairman