

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

MONDAY

30th NOVEMBER 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Also present: Councillor: N. A. Hollinghurst

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

15257. **APOLOGIES**

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

15258. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Hearn declared a prejudicial interest in Item 11 (Estimates of Income & Expenditure 2010/11 Buildings & Assets Committee) as her family business occupied the Council's Brook Street Auction Rooms.

15259. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 7th September 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15260. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

There were none.

15261. **GRANTS 2009/10**

Under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council **RESOLVED** to make the following grants:

- (i) To the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal the sum of £20 for the provision of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday.
- (ii) To The Hospice of St. Francis the sum of £300 towards the provision of one recliner chair.

Under S145 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council **RESOLVED** to make a grant to the Court Youth Theatre of £150 towards the costs of writing workshops for the Senior Youth Theatre Group.

The application from Tring in Transition would be considered when the group submitted a copy of its latest accounts.

15262. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2009/10**

The Budget v. Actual statements to 30th September 2009 and to date were noted.

15263. **COUNCILLORS' WEB PAGE**

Councillor Townsend agreed to take over the writing of the councillors' monthly web page for three consecutive months, with immediate effect.

15264. **TRING TOWN CRIER 2010**

A draft timetable for production and circulation had been circulated with the agenda, and this was agreed. The Chairman would edit the publication and Councillor Hollinghurst would co-ordinate the collection of advertising. The Clerk would continue to collate articles and proof read. The Clerk would also investigate the cost of alternative methods of distribution.

15265. **TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Town Warden's report to 30th September 2009 was received. The Committee commended the Warden's excellent work for the Council and town.

15266. **INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Information Officer's report to December 2009 was received. Her continuing excellent work for the Council was commended.

15267. **ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2010/11**

The first version of the Estimates for 2010/11 had been issued. The Clerk explained the rationale behind various items. Councillor Mrs Hearn suggested inserting a sum in 'F&P Town Projects' to fund a project to support small businesses in the town, possibly realised through Tring Together and the Chamber of Commerce. Advice as to the form of support could be obtained from the Federation of Small Businesses. A meeting would be set up with TT and the Chamber before January, attended by the Chairman, Councillors Mrs Hearn and Hollinghurst and the Clerk. The Clerk advised that any such project would be funded through S137 monies; and that she would have to take advice about the legality of S137 expenditure directed specifically at traders. The Committee agreed a provisional sum of £10,000 be inserted in that budget. With that amendment, and other possible variances where a more exact figure became known, the Estimates would be reissued by the Clerk for further discussion and consideration at F&P Committee on 18th January 2010.

15268. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS**

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Batchelor, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Ransley 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.

15269. **STAFFING MATTERS**

- (i) The National Pay Settlement for 2009/10 had been announced. Staff on points 4 -10 received an increase of 1.25% and those from 11 upwards received 1%. All back pay had been made in November.
- (ii) The Clerk reported that the selection process for the Deputy Clerk was in progress.

15270. **ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2010/11**

Residual matters relating to detailed staff costs were noted.

The meeting ended at 8.27 p.m.

Chairman