

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE TRING TOWN
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING, ON
MONDAY
18th JANUARY 2010 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)

Also present: Councillor: N. A. Hollinghurst

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

15300. **APOLOGIES**

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

15301. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Hearn declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9 (Estimates of Income & Expenditure 2010/11 Buildings & Assets Committee) as her family business occupied the Council's Brook Street Auction Rooms. The Chairman and Councillors Mrs Hearn and Hollinghurst declared personal interests in Item 9 for Finance & Policy Committee grants to Tring Youth Project as trustees and directors of the charity. Also they had omitted to declare personal interests in relation to the same matter at the meeting held on 30th November 2009 (Minute 15267 refers), and did so now.

15302. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 30th November 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15303. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

There were none.

15304. **GRANTS 2009/10**

A letter of thanks had been received from the Hospice of St. Francis for the grant towards a recliner chair. There were no new applications; and the outstanding information due from Tring in Transition had not yet been provided to enable its grant to be considered. There remained £700 available for distribution in this financial year.

15305. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2009/10**

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

15306. **INTERNAL AUDIT – INTERIM REPORT 2009/10**

The Internal Auditor's interim report had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED:** that the Internal Auditor's report be received.

The Committee congratulated the Clerk and her Assistant on the complimentary report.

15307. **MEMBER-OFFICER PROTOCOL**

HAPTC, in association with Local Associations Information Services, had developed a model Member-Officer protocol suitable for use by all parish councils. It had been circulated with the

agenda. The Committee approved the draft and agreed it would be formally adopted at the Council meeting due to be held on 22nd February 2010.

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15308. **ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2010/11**

- (i) The Committee considered the second draft of the Estimates. Councillor Mrs Hearn reported that a meeting had taken place with Tring Together and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the possible use of a grant to support local businesses. TT would produce a paper for the F&P Committee meeting due to be held on 8th March 2010 to clarify and expand ideas. The Clerk had received confirmation from HAPTC that it was acceptable for a S137 grant to be given for such a purpose, provided the Council had no direct input into spending the money; and that it monitored the use of the grant by the organisation receiving it. Councillors supported the concept and added ideas as to how the scheme could be progressed by Tring Together.
- (ii) The Committee **RESOLVED:**
- (a) To apply to Dacorum Borough Council for an amount to maintain the existing public notice boards in 2010/11 in the sum of £384
 - (b) To apply to Dacorum Borough Council for the 2010/11 contribution towards the Town Warden's expenses in the sum of £18,357
 - (c) That a recommendation to levy a Precept in 2010/11 on the Council Tax in the sum of £114,272 be made to the Council Meeting to be held on 25th January 2010.

15309. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS**

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

15310. **STAFFING MATTERS**

The Clerk reported on the process and outcome of the interviews for the post of Deputy Clerk. The Committee endorsed the Staffing Working Party's decision to appoint Belle Daytonn as the new Deputy Clerk of Tring, subject to the receipt of satisfactory references and proofs. Her provisional date of appointment was 1st March 2010.

15311. **ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2010/11**

There were no matters outstanding from the open session, save to note that the cost of employing the Town Warden would not be wholly covered by the expected grant from Dacorum Borough Council.

The meeting ended at 7.54 p.m.

Chairman