

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

MONDAY

29th NOVEMBER 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: J. S. Allan (in the chair)
W. D. Berdinner
L. J. Harris
Mrs P. J. Hearn
Mrs R. L. Ransley (ex officio)
C. F. Townsend

Also present: Councillors: Mrs M. V. Booth
N. A. Hollinghurst

Mrs B Daytonn, Acting Clerk of the Council
No members of the public

15730. **APOLOGIES**
There were none.

15731. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Councillor Mrs Hearn declared a prejudicial interest in item 7 Annual Accounts as her husband was the Council's tenant. Councillors Mrs Hearn and Hollinghurst, as Trustees of Tring Youth Project, declared personal interests in Item 7. Councillor Berdinner had omitted to declare a personal interest in relation to the grant given to Calibre, and did so now.

15732. **MINUTES**
The Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on 6th September 2010 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15733. **MATTERS OF REPORT**
Arising from Minute 15385, a sum of £10,000 had been identified in the 2010/11 Estimates as a S137 grant to support local business in Tring through the medium of Tring Together. TT's Project Officer had been asked to produce a paper setting out possibilities for the use of the grant, and this had been circulated prior to the meeting.

15734. **ALLOTMENT APPEAL**
(i) The Chairman explained the Council's stance regarding allotment rent due on 1st October 2010. Three tenants were sent termination letters for non-payment of rent and two tenants had appealed against repossession. The Committee then considered the two appeals. Regarding Plot 39A, the Committee upheld the appeal and allowed the plot holder to retain the plot for the forthcoming year.
(ii) Regarding Plot 65, the evidence presented by letter was considered and the decision of the Committee upheld the appeal and allowed the occupant to down-size to half a plot as per their letter.

15735. **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.

15735. **GRANTS 2009/10/Contd.**

- (ii) To Dacorum Netball Forum the sum of £100 towards the provision of match balls.
- (iii) To the Hospice of St Francis the sum of £100 towards the purchase of an oxygen concentrator. The Acting Clerk was asked to inform the Hospice of St Francis that a further sum might be available at a later date, if it wished to apply.
- (iv) To the Calibre audio library the sum of £100 towards providing its service.

15736. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2010/11**

The Clerk reported that the Budget v. Actual statement to date issued with the agenda was internally inaccurate in that certain figures had been posted incorrectly against codes. However the overall figures were properly indicative of Council income and expenditure. The Clerk would re-run the figures following work in association with the Deputy Clerk, and re-issue a revised Statement in due course.

15737. **TRING TOWN CRIER 2011**

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.

15738. **TOWN WARDEN'S HALF-YEARLY REPORT**

The Town Warden's report to 30th September 2010 was received. The Committee commended the Warden's excellent work for the Council and town.

15739. **INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT**

The new Information Officer was congratulated on her first report, to December 2010. The report was received.

15740. **ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2011/12**

In view of the late receipt of the Budget figures it was decided to defer detailed consideration of the Estimates to the meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee on 17th January 2011.

15741. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS**

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Townsend, **SECONDED** by Councillor Berdinner 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.

15742. **TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE**

In view of the need to consult the Information Officer on this topic it was decided to defer discussion on the future of the Council's website to the meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee on 17th January 2011.

15743. **ESTIMATES OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2011/12**

In view of the continuing discussion concerning the recruitment of a new Clerk it was decided to defer detailed consideration of the staffing figures of the Estimates to the meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee on 17th January 2011.

15744. **PUBLIC WORKS BOARD: NOTICE TO WITHDRAW CHEQUE PAYMENT FACILITY**

The PWLB had given notice that it wished to withdraw the facility of payment by cheque from parish councils. The Acting Clerk pointed out that payment by direct debit would require change to

primary legislation, as the LGA 1972 required parish councils to issue cheques with a minimum of two councillor signatures. The use of DDs also removed a degree of control from the Council. The Acting Clerk was asked to reply to the PWLB accordingly.

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15745. **STAFFING MATTERS**

It was **RESOLVED** defer the discussion of staffing issues to an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 6th December 2010 immediately following the conclusion of the Planning Committee meeting that night. In addition, it was decided to place an item on the agenda of that meeting to discuss the Estimates generally in Open Session, rather than wait until F&P Committee on 17th January 2011.

The meeting ended at 8.43 p.m.

Chairman