

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 28th September 2016 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Adams Vice Chairman
Cllrs Anstey, Price, Hale, Perkins, Earth, Fulford, Wilson, & Lewendon

In attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Connolly, Paton & Bailey

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in Agenda item 5, Monies Collected & Payment of Accounts as a supplier to the Council – but remained in the meeting but did not speak or vote on this item.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2016 and report any matters arising

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 31st August 2016 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 3 – CiLCA – The Finance Officer advised that the Clerk and herself had attended the first training session for CiLCA earlier in the week.

A338 Joint Approach – the Clerk advised that Ringwood TC had sent a joint letter to Hampshire County Council regarding improving safety on the A338.

4. To receive any matters raised by Members Of the Public

No members of the public present.

5. To receive details of Monies Collected & Payment of Accounts

The Finance Officer summarised the accounts for September advising that the expenditure for £1000 for Scent Sational Plants relates to expenses incurred in the previous financial year. There were no other extraordinary items to note.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting.

Budgets - the Finance Officer reported the following items:

General Purposes - The Finance Officer reported that the General Purposes budget would need to be adjusted to reflect the Operatives reduced working hours (and wages).

Amenities – Football & Rugby Income had increased so likely to be up on budget.
Works required as a result of the RoSPA report, one quote received for £7,500, it may be more cost effective to replace some equipment (match funding with potential grants). Also more repairs are required to the skate park, future provision of the facility needs to be considered.

Finance & Policy – Avonway Grants - Finance Officer to check allocation.

6. To approve changes/amendments to Financial Regulations

Significant amendments had been prepared by the Finance Officer to bring the Council's Financial Regulations up to date and more in line with the NALC model regulations and to incorporate the requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Following discussion members agreed that more time was needed to consider these amendments and this item would be placed on the agenda for the October meeting.

7. To receive any Finance & Policy matters referred from sub-committees.

No matters referred from sub-committees.

8. To discuss the future provision of the Christmas Lights

The Clerk had distributed a report regarding the provision of the Christmas Lights which included a recommendation that the previous 3 year contract should be extended to allow for provision this year (2016/2017). A quote had been received in June 2016 in the sum of £7523.25 from STN Solutions Ltd, the previous contractor, for the service.

The Clerk explained that following the introduction of the Public Contracts Regulation 2015, a new contract over a period of at least 3 years would be required to be advertised on the Government Website "Contract Finder" – despite several attempts this had not been possible. As the Council have not entered into a new contract and the requirements for funding were unclear, the Rotary Club, who donated to the previous 3 year costs, have not specifically fundraised this year for the lights.

Members agreed that although the provision of the lights (and the Christmas Event) is well received in the Town it is not a statutory service or function of the Council and that feedback should be gained from the community on future provision. There was a general feeling that it was too late to not provide lights this year.

Cllr Hale proposed and Cllr Earth seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: to accept the quote from STN Solutions Ltd in the sum of **£7523.25** for the provision of the lights this Christmas.

8 in favour, 1 abstention.

Town Clerk to issue press release in November advertising this year's event and requesting feedback on future provision.

9. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) regarding The 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation Paper (or Precept Consultation). This item will be placed on the Agenda for the October Finance & Policy meeting with a view to making a response by the deadline of 28th October 2016.

10. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

11. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 26th October 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm