

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 24 July 2018 at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillor Glendinning (Chairman), J. Bartrum, Bustin (6.18pm), Jones & Peacey-Wilcox.

In attendance: Councillor Wardrop (non-voting); Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; one member of the public.

291 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fuller & Oliver.

292 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Peacey-Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 296 as she knows the grant applicant.

293 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 26 June 2018 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

294 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

The Town Clerk submitted a financial statement for the first quarter of the financial year giving details of income and expenditure. The balances in the Town Council's bank accounts and petty cash as at 30 June 2018 were £591,456.13 of which £166,918.98 is ring fenced /ear marked expenditure. The balance of the budget for 2018 / 2019 is £247,467.93. Reserves are £177,069.22 which represent approximately 7 months running costs. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the Financial Statement as at 30 June 2018 be noted and approved.

295 NATIONWIDE BUSINESS 1 YEAR FIXED RATE SAVER ACCOUNT

The Town Clerk advised Councillors that Cowes Town Council's Nationwide Business 1 Year Fixed Rate Saver Account matures on 7 August 2018. Several options, post maturity, have been offered by Nationwide which include re-investing the funds into another Business 1 Year fixed Rate Saver Account, a Business Instant Saver Account or a Business 95 Day Saver Account. Councillors also considered whether to make a withdrawal and transfer the funds into another bank. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council transfers the funds held into another Nationwide Business 1 Year Fixed Rate Saver Account with a gross interest rate per annum of 0.75%.

296 APPLICATION FOR GRANT

The Town Clerk reported that £12,030 remained in the budget for 'Grants, Events & Good Causes'. The Town Council has been asked to consider the following application for grant:

- TeamSpy Race Team – To continue to run the team with scope to grow and expand - £1,000

After a full discussion about the application it was:

RECOMMENDED

That a grant be made to TeamSpy Race Team in the sum of £1,000.

297 EQUALS IW

Councillors have been asked to consider making a donation to Equals IW which is a registered charity which formed to celebrate equality and diversity on the Isle of Wight. Councillors agreed that the charity should make a request for funding through the approved grant application process. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will write to Equals IW to advise of the grant application process.

298 TOILET CLEANING AND LITTER PICKING CONTRACT

The Town Clerk advised Councillors that the current toilet cleaning / litter picking contract has been running for the last three years and it is time to seek quotations for the contract as from 1 April 2019. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will seek three written quotations for the toilet cleaning / litter picking contract as from 1 April 2019.

299 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT NORTHWOOD PARK

The Town Clerk advised Councillors that the current grounds maintenance contract at Northwood Park has been running for the last three years and it is time to seek quotations for the contract as from 1 April 2019. It was agreed:

ACTION

The Town Clerk will seek three written quotations for the grounds maintenance contract at Northwood Park as from 1 April 2019.

300 NALC AND SLCC JOINT STATEMENT ON THE LEDBURY CASE

NALC and SLCC have written to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the Local Government Association to highlight their concerns about a recent legal judgment which will make it more difficult for town and parish councils to resolve disputes between councillors and their employees. The decision confines most complaints about councillors to the code of conduct process. Employees will now not generally be able to use their council's grievance procedure if the subject of their grievance is about a councillor. Inevitably this will lead to more principal authority involvement in local council matters and place additional burdens on already hard-pressed Monitoring Officers. Councillors agreed to monitor any further communications in regard to this matter.

Councillor Wardrop left the meeting at 7.10pm.

301 STAFFING

There were no other staffing matters raised by Councillors or Clerks.

302 HEALTH AND SAFETY

There were no health and safety matters raised by Councillors or Clerks.

303 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- S106 monies available to Cowes Town Council

The proceedings terminated at 7.12pm

CHAIRMAN