

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 30 April 2019 at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillors Fuller (Chair), Bustin, Hammond & Oliver.

In attendance: Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk.

392 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jones, Taylor & Wardrop.

393 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hammond declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 396 (ii) as she supervises the parking of the participants' cars for the event, the parking fees being paid to Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd.

Councillor Fuller declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 396 (ii) as he attended and received catering from the organisers of the Cowes 64th Open Bowls Tournament.

Councillors Fuller and Hammond declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 397.1 as they know Will Ainslie, from People Powered CIC, through other activities in Cowes.

394 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 26 March 2019 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

395 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

The Town Clerk submitted a financial statement for the year 2018 / 2019 giving details of income and expenditure. Councillors looked at each budget heading and discussed any over or under spends. The balances in the Town Council's bank accounts and petty cash as at 31 March 2019 were £390,426.48 of which £206,154.99 is ring fenced / ear marked expenditure which had been itemised for discussion / approval. The Reserves as at 31 March 2019 were £184,261.49 which represents just over seven months operating costs. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council receive, note and approve the Financial Statement as at 31 March 2019.

396 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT

The Town Clerk advised that there is £22,000 in the budget for 'Grants' for 2019 / 2020. The Town Council has been asked to consider the following applications for grant:

- (i) Wight To Be Happy Ltd – Isle of Wight Festival of the Mind – 6 October 2019 - £100
- (ii) Cowes Open Bowls Tournament – Cowes 65th Open Bowls Tournament 2019 - £400
- (iii) Northwood Cricket Club – Shed & base; Mobile cricket net - £2,000

After a full discussion about each of the applications it was:

RECOMMENDED

1. That a grant be made to Wight To Be Happy Ltd in the sum of £100.
2. That a grant be made to the Cowes Open Bowls Tournament in the sum of £400.
3. That a grant be made to Northwood Cricket Club in the sum of £1,500 with a request that the Club seek the further £500 from other funding sources.

397 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PROJECTS COMMITTEE

1. The Projects Committee recommend funding the cost of £600 for People Powered CIC to write a bid for funding a recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground with the cost to be met from the money set aside for 'Consultation Events – Recreational Pathway'. (Minute No. 6144d refers). It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council provides funding of £600 to People Powered CIC to write a bid for funding a recreational pathway at Northwood Recreation Ground. The cost to be met from the money set aside for 'Consultation Events – Recreational Pathway'.

2. The Projects Committee recommend the cost of £4,640 for Contractor B to decorate the Town Council's assets i.e. noticeboard; sign; finger post columns and finials x 7; finger post arms x 48; map display units x 6. The cost of £3,085 to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading and the shortfall of £1,555 to be met from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council engages Contractor B to decorate the Town Council's assets i.e. noticeboard; sign; finger post columns and finials x 7; finger post arms x 48; map display units x 6 for the sum of £4,640. The cost of £3,085 to be met from the 'Street Furniture Maintenance' budget heading and the shortfall of £1,555 to be met from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading.

398 COMMUNITY SPRING CLEAN

The Town Clerk advised that as a result of the Town Council taking part in the Great British Spring Clean, the Government (via the IW Council) awarded the Town Council a grant in the sum of £1,500. This grant must be ring fenced to pending or future community cleans and should be used to provide equipment, clothing, waste management and any other environmental improvement initiative. The possible shortfall in the 'Cowes In Bloom' budget heading was discussed and this grant could be used to support this initiative as being an environmental improvement. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the grant of £1,500 be set aside to support the 'Cowes In Bloom' budget heading or any other environmental improvement initiative.

399 SCHOOL HOLIDAY SKATEBOARD SESSIONS AT NORTHWOOD RECREATION GROUND

The Town Council has been asked to consider funding free skateboard sessions for young people aged between 5 and 18 years at Northwood Recreation Ground. Each session would last two hours on a set day throughout 5 weeks of the school summer holidays. This initiative was supported by the Town Council last year and the sessions held in Cowes attracted the second highest number of attendees. The cost to provide the sessions, plus all equipment, is £700. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council funds the cost of free skateboard sessions for young people aged between 5 and 18 years at Northwood Recreation Ground for 5 weeks in the school summer holidays for the sum of £700. The cost to be met from the 'Discretionary Services Contingency' budget heading.

400 STAFFING

There were no staffing matters raised by Councillors or Clerks.

401 HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

402 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 7.01pm.

CHAIRMAN