

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the FINANCE COMMITTEE held in the Community Hall, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday, 9th November, 2010 at 6.20 p.m.

Present: Councillor Birch (Chairman)

Councillors Jones, McGregor, Sanderson, Walters and Wells.

In attendance: (Non voting) Councillors Matthews and Robinson.

339 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Banks, Peacey-Wilcox and Wilcox..

340 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th August, 2010 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

341 COWES CARNIVAL

The Town Clerk reminded members that further clarification had been sought on a number issues surrounding the grant application from Cowes Carnival; he submitted a response, a copy of which had been circulated to all members.

RESOLVED

That the letter from Cowes Carnival be received and noted.

342 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Town Clerk submitted a Financial Statement giving details of income and expenditure against budget for the period to 2nd November, 2010. He also submitted details of the balances on all of the Town Council's accounts as at 2nd November, 2010 totalling £167,239; the Town Council had 'ring fenced' £92,805 of this total for specific projects which together with budgeted expenditure to year end of £58,183 would leave a year end useable balance of only £16,251.

It was agreed that Councillor Walters would liaise with the Town Clerk to examine whether or not a better method of presenting the accounts could be established.

Councillor Wells stated that the Cowes Concert band were seeking payment of a £200 fee despite their performance on 5th September being cancelled; the band had attended the bandstand but they had decided not to perform due to inclement weather.

RECOMMENDED

That as a gesture of goodwill, the Town Council make an ex gratia payment of £50 to the Cowes Concert Band.

343 STAFF ISSUES

The Assistant Town Clerk was seeking the Town Council's support with her application to join the Local Government superannuation scheme. The Town Clerk reported that the cost to the Town Council would be 22% of salary which currently equated to £1,140 per annum.

The Town Clerk also requested that the Town Council utilise the services of the I.W. Council at a cost of £200 per annum for the calculation and payment of staff salaries; the majority of Town and Parish Councils on the Island already took advantage of this service

RECOMMENDED

- 1). That subject to the satisfactory completion of the Assistant Town Clerks probation period, the Town Council will support the Assistant Town Clerks membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme with effect from 1st April 2011; and
- 2). That the Town Council utilise the services of the I.W. Council for the calculation and payment of salaries.

344 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

Members of the Finance Committee had received copies of all applications for grants including copies of the relevant accounts; the sum of £2,930 remained unallocated in the budget to enable small grants to be made to local organisations.

a). Cowes Bowling Club.

Towards the costs of a mower for maintaining the bowling green.

b). Cowes Heritage.

Towards the hire of premises for their latest exhibition.

c). I.W. Citizens Advice Bureau.

Assistance towards the costs of providing their free and impartial advice service on the Island.

d). Optio Voluntary Car Service.

Contribution towards the cost of running the Island's voluntary car scheme.

RECOMMENDED

- 1). That grants be made to the following organisations in accordance with the amounts shown:

a). Cowes Bowling Club	£500
b). Cowes Heritage	£200
c). Optio voluntary car service	£200

- 2). That no grant be made in respect of the application from the I.W. Citizens Advice Bureau; and
- 3). That the balance of £2,030 in the estimates be kept in reserve pending further applications which may be received.

345 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2011/12

The Town Clerk submitted details of a suggested budget and precept for the financial year 2011/12. This was considered by Members of the Committee and following much discussion it was

RECOMMENDED

- 1). That the Town Council approves the following budget in the sum of £99,800 for the financial year 2011/12:

TOWN CLERK

Salary of Town Clerk/ Employer NI	22,000	
Town Clerks Gratuity Fund/Superannuation	2,000	
Town Clerks attendance at National Conference	500	24,500

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Telephone (Line rental/calls/broadband)	600	
Postages	200	
Travelling	400	
Training (including councillor training)	400	
Office/hire of meeting rooms/stationery and Office equipment	9,000	10,600

SUBSCRIPTIONS - General subscriptions

400 **400**

HIRE OF HALLS

700 **700**

INSURANCE

2,500 **2,500**

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTANCY FEES

1,200 **1,200**

TOWN MAYORS ALLOWANCE

1,200 **1,200**

COWES IN BLOOM

Plants and equipment	1,500	
Watering	1,900	
Competition prizes/engraving of trophies	0	3,400

SKATE PARK & PLAYPARK		
Cost of cleaner	2,900	
Annual Safety Inspection	100	
Floodlight electricity costs	150	
Maintenance and repair	3,000	6,150
GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS	5,500	5,500
SPECIAL EVENTS	5,500	5,500
TOWN IMPROVEMENTS		
Christmas trees	1,750	
Clock maintenance	200	
Seat and benches maintenance/)	
Cowes signs, information boards and fingerposts maintenance) 2,500	
Decorative lighting maintenance/electricity	800	
The Cut	10,000	
New projects	14,000	
Dog/litter bin emptying	1,000	30,250
NEWSLETTER AND WEB SITE	1,500	1,500
CCTV		
Licence Fee	4,400	4,400
ELECTION EXPENSES	1,000	1,000
GENERAL CONTINGENCIES	1,000	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON TOWN AFFAIRS		99,800
LESS		
VAT Recoverable	13,000	
Bank Interest receivable	100	
		13,100
TOTAL PRECEPT		<u>86,700</u>

(The proceedings terminated at 8.00p.m.)

CHAIRMAN