

COWES TOWN COUNCIL


Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Thursday 24 November 2016 at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillors McNeill (Chairman), Bartrum, Brown, Corby, Ellis, Jones & Slade.
In attendance: Councillors Glendinning & Taylor; Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk.

123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Banks.

124 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to discussions about the draft budget for 2017 / 2018, Councillors declared the following pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests: *Re: Minute 126* 
Councillor Slade declared non-pecuniary interests as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library, the Fireworks Committee and Shoreside Committee.

Councillor Brown declared non-pecuniary interests as a Member of Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd and Cowes Town Council's representative on the Northwood House Park Sub Committee.

Councillor Bartrum declared non-pecuniary interests as Cowes Town Council's representative on the Supporters of Cowes Library and deputy representative on the Northwood House Park Sub Committee.

Councillor McNeill declared a pecuniary interest as Cowes Town Council's representative and Chairman of Destination Cowes.

Councillor Ellis declared a pecuniary interest as a member of Cowes Carnival Committee.

125 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 11 October 2016 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

126 DRAFT BUDGET 2017 / 2018

Councillors were presented with a draft budget for 2017 / 2018 split into three sections and each section was reviewed line by line.

1. General Administration; Councillors agreed that no amendments were necessary;
2. Discretionary Services; Councillors agreed that no amendments were necessary;
3. Town improvements / Grants / Special Events; Councillors agreed that there should be amendments made to the budget headings for grants. There should be one single budget heading for the purpose of grants to which all organisations can apply, subject to meeting the agreed criteria.

During the course of the discussion a number of queries arose for follow up:

ACTIONS

1. The Town Clerk will ask the IW Council whether works to the copse at the Moorgreen Reservoir site is included in the grounds maintenance contract.



2. The Town Clerk will ask the IW Council to confirm, in writing, that they maintain responsibility for all employment issues & liabilities relating to the member of staff at Cowes Library that Cowes Town Council will be funding; and request that any revenue raised by the Library be split according to the financial commitment of the IW Council and Cowes Town Council.

3. The Town Clerk will check the status of the bond that Cowes Town Council gave to the Community Bus project and ascertain whether any refund is due.

4. The Town Clerk will prepare an amended draft budget, as discussed, for consideration at the next Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting on Tuesday 6 December 2016.

127 STAFFING

Councillors raised no staffing matters other than to thank the Clerks who provided, at no cost to the Council, the transport for Lady Grylls who switched on the festive lights. Councillors also thanked the Clerks for their hard work in general.

128 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Review of Cowes Town Council's grant funding process
- Destination Cowes

The proceedings terminated at 7.54pm.

CHAIRMAN