

COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Meeting held in The Library, Northwood House, Cowes on Tuesday 22 March 2022 at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillors Walters (Chair), Bertie, Brown, Carter, Ellis, Nicholson & Rafferty.

In attendance: Councillor Paler (non-voting); Debbie Faulkner, Town Clerk; Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk.

637 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hollis & Jones.

638 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

**639 MINUTES
RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee meeting held on 22 February 2022 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

640 EAR MARKED BALANCES TO BE CARRIED OVER INTO THE 2022 / 2023 BUDGET

The Town Clerk submitted details of existing ear marked balances and suggested which additional amounts from the 2021 / 2022 budget headings should be ear marked and carried over to the 2022 / 2023 budget. Those headings being Northwood Recreation Ground – Skate Park / MUGA / Outdoor Gym Maintenance budget; Public Toilet Refurbishment; Street Furniture Maintenance; Cowes in Bloom. Other monies to be earmarked are the contribution received towards the roof at The Parade public convenience which will be used to offset the costs of the transfer to mains feed water at this facility; the ORP Blyskawica 80th Anniversary Event; the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee event; the Uffa Fox (UF50) grant which will be held in lieu of the IW Council’s charges for suspending parking on The Parade. Any underspend, from other budget headings, will go into the Town Council’s Reserves.

Councillors also discussed the ring fenced amount for the Parade Roof held for Emerald Construction to be changed to F.W. Marsh – Transfer to mains feed water – The Parade PC. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the balances in the budget headings, as listed above, be ring fenced or earmarked, as appropriate, at the financial year end on 31 March 2022.

641 OVERVIEW OF GUIDELINES / CRITERIA FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS TO COWES TOWN COUNCIL, LINKING THIS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL’S KEY SERVICE OBJECTIVES AND THE PLACE PLAN (MINUTE NO 630 REFERS)

Councillors reviewed Cowes Town Council’s current guidelines / criteria for applying for grants, Cowes Town Council’s Key Service Objectives and the Grant Awarding Policy and Procedure used by Gurnard Parish Council. Councillors also discussed the professional fund raisers who potentially request a grant from all 33 Town and Parish Councils on the Island, and whether wealthier charities should fall outside of the Town Council’s current criteria. Councillors felt that the grants given should align with the remit of the Place Plan.

Councillors agreed not to change the current Application for Grant form, at present. It was agreed:

ACTIONS

1. The Chairman of the Committee and the Town Clerk will write to IWALC to request information from other Town and Parish Councils about their grant criteria and whether they are also being approached by professional fund raisers.
2. The criteria for applying for a grant will be referred to the Projects Committee. A working group will be established to review the criteria for applying for a grant and to review the Town Council's Statement of Purpose (formerly Mission Statement) and Key Service Objectives.

642 RESPONSE FROM NORTHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF COWES LIBRARY (MINUTE NO. 616 REFERS)

Cowes Town Council wrote to Gurnard and Northwood Parish Councils on 30 November 2021 asking if they would be prepared to make a contribution towards the running costs of Cowes Library; Gurnard Parish Council have responded to say that they will contribute £1,000. Northwood Parish Council have decided not to contribute as they couldn't evidence it benefitting Northwood residents directly.

643 NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES (NJC) RATES OF PAY APPLICABLE FROM 1 APRIL 2021

The Town Clerk advised that the NJC have agreed the new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2021; this represents a pay rise of 1.75%. It was:

RECOMMENDED

That Cowes Town Council receives the details of the NJC pay rise of 1.75% applicable from 1 April 2021.

644 OTHER STAFFING MATTERS

There were no other staffing matter to discuss.

645 HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

There were no health and safety matters to discuss.

646 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items raised for inclusion on future agendas.

The proceedings terminated at 6.58pm.

CHAIRMAN