

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2015 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Bell, Campling, T Dignum, French, Plowman and Scicluna
- EX OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor Hughes)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Siggs)
Councillor Apel
- APOLOGIES : Councillor Woolley
- ABSENT : Councillor Rankin
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk, Finance Manager and Administration Manager

As this meeting of the Finance Committee was the last one in the current administration, the Chairman thanked his Vice-Chairman and members of the Committee. Councillor T Dignum wished it to be minuted that thanks were given to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee.

51 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2014 having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

52 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2015

A copy of the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report to 31 January 2015 was circulated with the Agenda.

The Report showed a surplus of £30,396 against the budget to the end of January 2015.

The Finance Manager spoke on the Variances listed in the Budget Monitoring Report which were now cumulative from the start of the financial year 2014/2015.

53 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2014/2015

A copy of the Capital Monitoring Report and a 5-year forecast on Capital Projects was circulated with the Agenda.

It was RESOLVED that the remaining budget of £9,165 allocated for the Whyke Community Centre be withdrawn from the Capital Programme budget and returned to the Capital Reserves.

The latest update on the New Homes Bonus Funding 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 was noted. Councillor Bell commented that the improvements to the South Downs Planetarium toilets had transformed the place.

54 QUALITY PARISH SCHEME

The report of the Town Clerk on the Local Councils Award Scheme which replaced the Quality Parish Council Scheme was circulated with the Agenda.

The report outlined the three levels of accreditation. As a current Quality Parish Council the City Council had applied for an automatic transition to the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme.

It was RESOLVED that Chichester City Council does not pursue further accreditation under the new Local Council Award Scheme once the transition to Foundation Level has expired in 2016.

It was noted that the City Council would still be able to exercise the Power of General Competence as this was an entirely separate issue to the Quality Parish/Local Council Award Scheme. At the Annual Meeting of the City Council an appropriate Resolution would be passed to exercise this Power.

55 PUBLICATION OF 2ND EDITION OF 'A CHAIN OF MAYORS'

Councillor Scicluna had prepared a report on this matter and this had been circulated with the Agenda.

The report highlighted that Councillor Scicluna already had received a donation of £1,290 for the publication of the second edition of 'A Chain of Mayors'. However costings had now been received for the printing of 150 copies at a cost of £1,894.

It was RESOLVED that the City Council take responsibility of the publication 'A Chain of Mayors' as it was a significant part of the City Council's history and that £600 be allocated for the publication of the second edition of 'A Chain of Mayors' and that the book be updated every 5 years.

56 KEATS STATUE AT EASTGATE SQUARE

The Chairman advised that the Keats statue for Eastgate Square had now received planning permission but funding was required for the project to be completed. A sum of £30,000 would be required for this project to go ahead and the Chairman considered this could be funded from the City Council's Reserves and that the statue becomes an asset to the City Council.

The proposal was compared to the proposed new memorial sculpture that the City Council were considering for the Garden of Reflection and Reconciliation at Litten Gardens.

The Committee discussed many aspects of the statue planned for Eastgate Square but considered more information was required on the project, for example detailed costings and information on the funding streams that had already be investigated.

The Chairman proposed and was duly seconded that the Finance Committee recommend to Full Council that as there was support for this project by a majority vote, that full costings would be obtained before the Council Meeting so that further discussions could take place and that the City Council do not enter into any contract before the end of the current administration.

57 HENTY FIELD

The Town Clerk advised that the City Council were still awaiting the Lease Agreement from West Sussex County Council which should have been signed at the beginning of January 2015 due to complexities involved with the disposal of school playing field land.

The Property Manager had had a successful meeting with local residents about the future use of Henty Field.

58 AUDIT REPORT ON GIFTS & HOSPITALITY

It was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Audit Report prepared by the City Council's Internal Auditor on Gifts & Hospitality and the recommendation therein.

59 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- (a) List of Cheques paid for September, October, November and December 2014 and January 2015

RESOLVED to note the cheques paid for September, October, November and December 2014 and January 2015

- (b) List of Barclaycard Payments for September, October, November and December 2014 and January 2015

RESOLVED to note the Barclaycard payments for September, October, November and December 2014 and January 2015

- (c) Finance Round-Up

The Finance Manager advised that :

- (i) the insurance renewal with Zurich had taken place and was under budget (this was year 2 of a 3 year contract);
- (ii) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had agreed under delegated powers a virement of £300 from the Printing Budget to the Stationery Budget;
- (iii) information from the auditors PKF Littlejohn had been received and that the accounts would need to be with them by 8 June 2015 for approval; the Finance Manager would be challenging this date as it was not feasible;
- (iv) DCK Beavers would be visiting the City Council on 14 May 2015 to close down the accounts for the financial year 2014/2015.

60 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

- (a) Property Sub-Committee

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2015 and 9 March 2015 having been circulated be approved.

Members considered the Recommendation in Minute 23 Fallen Oak Tree - Woodland Centre and following a discussion it was proposed and duly seconded that the Recommendation be re-worded as follows :

'It was RECOMMENDED to the Finance Committee that the proposal from the Woodland Centre be supported in principle, detailed costings be obtained by the Officers and all funding streams be investigated'

The proposal was put to the vote and carried.

61 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9 June 2015

The meeting closed at 6.58pm.