

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY 12th JANUARY, 2016** at **7.32pm.**

PRESENT Councillor H Smith (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Vice Chairman)

Councillors A Lewis, J Moody, P Palfrey,
P Sanders, J Sheldon,

Councillor Mrs M Ewings (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor C Rogers (Chairman – Properties
Committee)

IN ATTENDANCE Town Clerk, General Manager, Assistant to the
Town Clerk

224. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs S Bailey (Mayor) and P Williamson.

225. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Declaration of Interest was received for Agenda Item 11 (Section C) by Councillor Mrs M Ewings by virtue of a conflicting business interest.

226. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 1st December, 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Noted That

- the view of the Borough Council regarding the sharing/provision of personal ICT equipment was awaited;
- a report would be brought forward on the consequential impacts of the decision to discontinue operation of two of the Standing Committees of the Council.

227. GENERAL FINANCE

a) Schedule of Payments

The Committee received and considered a copy of the monthly accounts, as at 30th November, 2015 for submission to the next Council Meeting (Appendix 1).

b) Budget Monitoring Report

The Committee received and considered a copy of the Budget Monitoring Report as at 30th November, 2015 (Appendix 2).

228. FORWARD PLANNING POLICY & PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Forward Planning, Policy and Programme Sub-Committee (Appendix 3) held on Monday 14th December, 2015.

RECOMMENDED THAT subject to

- at Minute 202 vii(d) the replacement of the word 'land' with 'finance';
- at Minute 203 (a) the deletion of the words 'for all the people of Tavistock'

the Minutes of the Meeting of the Forward Planning, Policy and Programme Sub-Committee be received and the recommendations therein be endorsed.

229. ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

The Committee considered the following matters requiring a decision:-

a) Tavistock Heritage Festival

The Committee considered a request received for support/collaborative working (Appendix 4) between organisations for forthcoming Heritage events. In the ensuing discussion support was expressed, in particular, for a collaborative approach to heritage events in the Town.

RECOMMENDED THAT in view of the benefits identified in providing a joint event for Tavistock the Council support collaborative working on the basis outlined in the report for the delivery of linked heritage events over one week.

Noted That Councillor P Sanders abstained from the vote in view of being an appointed office holder of Tavistock Heritage.

b) Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens' Advice Bureau

The Committee considered a request (Appendix 5) to support the above organisation's TAP Funding request for financial assistance to deliver a Community Information Day in the town.

In the ensuing discussion queries were raised as to;

- Whether this event would replace the Open Day historically delivered by West Devon Borough Council, or if this was in addition to it;
- Which Council would be the designated 'lead' Council for this funding request;
- The estimated cost of delivering the event, and the level of grant being requested.

Such information would assist the Council in coming to a view

RECOMMENDED THAT

- the organisation be asked to respond to the queries raised above
- the decision be considered by Council on 19th January, 2016 once the information had been received.

230. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following items had been circulated for information only;

- a) Townscape BID Ltd – (Appendix 6) Minutes of the AGM held on 21st October, 2015 and Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th November, 2015;

Noted That – as the timescales for the Consultation Meetings mentioned in the Minutes was quite short the Council would request further information regarding the consultation process, together with a request for a copy of the company's Accounts.

- b) Report of the Assistant to the Town Clerk (Appendix 7)

Noted That – a previous request for a report into the possibility of using a local Letting Agency for future residential lettings was being progressed.

- c) Townscape Heritage Initiative - update report (Appendix 8)
- d) Goose Fair Income & Expenditure (Appendix 9)
Noted That – the General Manager gave a verbal update on outstanding costs, and the background to changes in some costs. In future years administrative costs incurred in relation to the delivery of this event would be included.
- e) Items for Future Agendas – there were no items suggested.
- f) Updates received from Council Representatives serving on outside bodies;
 An update was received and concerns expressed in relation to delays in being able to set the budget for the Dartmoor National Park Authority (which was awaiting confirmation from DEFRA on the level of core funding).

231. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was

RESOLVED THAT the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business.

232. DEBTORS

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to commercially sensitive information)

The Committee considered and noted the list of all those with debts to the Council dating from earlier than the last quarter day and received up-dates, where appropriate, in respect of same.

In particular an oral update was given in connection with item (c) and action taken under delegated authority in connection with same arising from which it was:

RECOMMENDED THAT a report be brought to a future meeting on safeguards which could be applied in instances where prospective tenants did not have the means to provide security for leases.

Noted That

- a) Councillor Mrs Ewings left the Meeting during the discussion of Item C on this report (Minute 225 above refers)

b) A discussion took place regarding how certain retail units could be better utilised, going forward, in view of past challenges in the vicinity.

The Press and Public were re-admitted to the Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

CHAIRMAN