

## **LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL**

**AT A MEETING** of the **FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 24 September 2013 there were present:

The Mayor Councillor Susan Pike - in the Chair

Councillors; Rachel Brooks, Ian Goldsworthy, Jane Pascoe and James Shrubsole,

Town Clerk - Mr Andrew Deacon

Minute Clerk - Mr Stuart Houghton

Members of the Public: Jan Hare and John Tovar

### **316/13 APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Phil Seeva

### **317/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made either Registerable or Non Registerable.

### **318/13 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 13 AUGUST 2013**

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee meeting held on the 13 August 2013.

### **319/13 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Budgets (Minute 210/13 (Property))**

- A meeting was arranged for the 15 October 2013 with Looe Cornwall Councillor Hannaford, in Truro
- The detailed accounts to be discussed at this meeting, for the toilets, have not yet been received from Cornwall Council

#### **Part II (Minute 215/13(Cattle Market Car Park))**

- A meeting had been held, information was becoming available.

### **320/13 PRECEPT 2014- 2015**

The Town Clerk reminded all Committee Chairmen that now was the time to focus on the next Precept and to decide how it would be achieved. It would include

- The Public Hall boilers
- Public toilets
- Westbourne gardens
- Training

- Grass cutting could also be included
- The Communication and Engagement Committee would need to prepare a new budget and detail their projects
- Last year the Precept was prepared just before Christmas, it was suggested that they needed to be prepared by the end of November this year. The final sum would depend on Cornwall Council and any grants that might be available
- Last year this Council received a £54k Rate Relief Grant, this might not be available this year
- The Council Tax increase might still be capped at 2%, the Bill had not received the second reading in Parliament
- Councillors would like the input of Councillor Mallard in the preparation of their budgets

A meeting of all Committee Chairmen with the Town Clerk would be arranged for Thursday or Friday of this week to discuss the timeline and detail for the preparation of the budgets.

### **321/13 BUDGET REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2013**

The Town Clerk reported that he was trying to get the budgets changed so that they would be available before the meeting.

The external auditors had asked questions about last year's accounts

- Why had the Council underspent last year. The reason was that the previous year's budget included for the replacement of the retaining wall at the rear of the Public Hall and monies for the operation of the CCTV system in the Town
- The Council had not discussed the governance and financial control of the Council. This would be included on the Agenda for the next Finance and Strategy Committee meeting.

In response to a question about the cost of the recent elections, the Town Clerk replied that almost £8k was due to be paid to Cornwall Council.

- The previous Town Council had not included this item in the Precept
- A budget of say £2.5k to £3.5k should be included in the budget each year for elections

The Mayor proposed, Councillor J. Shrubsole seconded and the Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the account from Cornwall Council for the recent election costs be paid.

#### Town Forum

The Town Clerk reported that monies were owed to the Liskeard Town Forum for the hire of the laptop projector; he asked that he be given the authority to pay for the cost of this hire of £468.

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded and the Committee **RECOMMENDED** that this account be paid in full.

The Town Clerk further reported that the balance of the budget for the Town Forum should be paid to the Forum.

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded and the Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the balance of the budget be paid to the Town Forum.

Finally, the Town Clerk reported that the balance of the budget for the previous year had not been transferred to the Forum. He had received conflicting views as to the reason for this and in response to a question, he replied that the monies were not in the Reserves, it was a budgeted item.

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, the Mayor seconded and the Committee **RECOMMENDED** that this money be transferred to the Forum.

- It was stated that the Forum should use this money, not sit on it
- The Forum should become proactive and resume its role in the Town
- The old Forum had been missed, people were happy to see it returning to its former self.

### **322/13 GRANTS**

- a. Vitalise, an application form to be sent by e-mail
- b. Cruse Bereavement, not discussed
- c. Hearing Dogs for the deaf, agreed to display their stickers in the Councils' buildings
- d. Liskeard Lights Up, a late application had been received for £450 to cover the cost of the insurance for the event.

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Committee **RECOMMENDED** that a grant of £450 be made.

- e. Liskeard Memory Café had applied for a grant of £300 to purchase a computer, printer and consumables. The Memory Café work with people who had memory problems and dementia etc.

Councillor Brooks proposed, the Mayor seconded and the Committee **RECOMMENDED** that a grant of £300 be made.

- f. Liskeard Male Voice Choir had made an application for a grant as a contribution to a new keyboard, sheet music and uniforms.

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, the Mayor seconded and the Committee **RECOMMENDED** that a grant of £100 be made.

Discussions were had concerning the payment of grants

- Should an allowance be made to spread the money over the full year
- This could mean that deserving applicants would be turned down or told to reapply at a later date
- No one knew when applications would be made
- The budget showed the monies available
- Last years awards could be listed as a guide for future years

**323/13      CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**324/13      ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

None.

**325/13      PART II**

Not required

**326/13      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Finance and Strategy Committee meeting would be at 7.30 pm on 22 October 2013