

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT A MEETING of the **FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 26 November 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

Member of the Public: None

501/13 PUBLIC SPEAKER

No members of the Public were present.

502/13 APOLOGIES

None

503/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

504/13 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 22 OCTOBER 2013

The Minutes of the Finance and Strategy Committee meeting held on the 22 October 2013 were noted.

505/13 MATTERS ARISING

Precept (Minute 412/13)

The Council would inform the neighbouring Parishes of their intention to prepare a Plan.

Investment Strategy (Minute 409/13)

The Town Clerk reported that he was still looking for a rate to match that received last year, but so far had been unsuccessful.

506/13 BUDGET REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2013

The Budget Report was circulated and discussed. The Town Clerk explained that the grants had been paid to the Town Forum which would appear on the next report.

507/13 PRECEPT

The Town Clerk reported that he had received a briefing note from Cornwall Council indicating that a Council Tax Support Grant would be received this year. It was the same amount as received last year, £54971.02. This notification indicated that next year this grant would be reduced by 15% to £46725.37. He also announced that he had received notification of a rate rebate for the Foresters Hall of £3628 which would result in a saving of around £3100.

He suggested that this Committee work through the proposal, which he had circulated, so that a recommended Precept could be presented to the full Council on the 17 December 2013, for approval. He advised Members that it would be better to make small annual increases rather than have no increases for a few years and then have to apply for a very large figure; he had read that a local Council had followed this route and had experienced problems.

A long debate was held concerning;

- the receipts for the Museum and TIC
- the inclusion of monies for the Neighbourhood Plan for this and next year
- the allowance made for the Curators salary
- NIC and superannuation charges
- the need to rationalize the wages structure
- to monitor toilet cleaning costs

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, the Mayor seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should finalise the Precept for 2014/2015, in line with these discussions, and to present them to the meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday 17 December 2013 for approval.

508/13 GRANTS

1. An application for a grant of £250 had been received from Merlin MS

This was the only group in Cornwall set up to assist sufferers of MS. They regularly received patients from Liskeard and had applied for a grant of £250 for their transport funds.

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Brooks seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** that a grant of £250 be paid to Merlin.

2. An application for a grant had been received by letter from the Cornwall Air Ambulance

The Council historically granted a sum of £200 on receipt of this letter.

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Pascoe seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** that a grant of £200 be paid to Cornwall Air Ambulance.

3. A verbal request for assistance with the hire of radios had been received from the Liskeard Lights Up Committee

Members commented that they had already awarded this organisation a grant and **DECLINED** this request.

509/13 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

510/13 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Councillor Brooks reported that at the last Town Council meeting she had been instructed to seek a supplementary estimate for the provision of the new TIC Website of £2500. This money was available from existing funds.

Councillor Brooks proposed, Councillor J. Shrubsole seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Council that a new Website be provided at the TIC up to a cost of £2500.

511/13 PART II. 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 discussed, it was **RESOLVED** that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of Business.

512/13 ITEMS REFERRED FROM THE MAIN PART OF THE AGENDA

1. Cattle Market
2. No 4 The Arcade
3. No 3 The arcade

513/13 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 it was **RESOLVED** that the members of the Press and Public be re-admitted to the Meeting.

Members ratified the discussions held in closed session.

514/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Finance and Strategy Committee meeting would be at 7.30 pm on 19 December 2013.