



RYDE

TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RYDE TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT 7PM ON TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2020 IN THE COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES, 10 LIND STREET, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

PRESENT: Councillors Phil Jordan (Chairman), Adrian Axford, Henry Adams, Charles Chapman, Diana Conyers, Nancy Farrell, Michael Lilley, Malcolm Ross, Ian Stephens, Wayne Whittle

IN ATTENDANCE: Gareth Hughes (Responsible Financial Officer), Liz Dutton (Administration Officer) Lisa Dyer (Office Manager)

ALSO PRESENT: 2 members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: A question was asked regarding the budget process. The Responsible Financial Officer responded that the budget was on going and took into account, current contracts, staffing levels and new services that may be considered.

1/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Sue Lyons, Karen Lucioni and Tim Wakeley

2/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Ross and Adams declared an interest in agenda item no. 8(g).
Cllr Conyers declared an interest in agenda item 6. as she had a remote link with the Community Connectors project.

3/20 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests received.

4/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2019 be approved as an accurate record and be signed by the Chairman.

5/20 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cllr Whittle asked a question regarding continuity of work given the recent departure of staff. The Chairman responded that an Interim Clerk had been appointed and the Town Council also had access to a locum clerk.

6/20 REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

Consideration was given to the second report from the Community Connector. The Committee noted the report and commended the Community Connector for the positive actions that had taken place.

7/20 REPORT FROM THE FOOTPRINT TRUST

Consideration was given to the quarterly report. The Chairman informed the meeting the invoice had yet to be received. The report was noted.

8/20 FUNDING REORTS

(a) Harp on Wight

Consideration was given to the annual report. The Committee were pleased to see the variety and standard of the performers and sessions. The report was noted.

(b) Warmer Ryde

Consideration was given to the annual report. The Committee pleased to note the Footprint Trust worked alongside number of other organisations to help those in need. The report was noted.

(c) Gift to Nature

Consideration was given to the annual report. The Committee recognised the importance of open spaces. The report was noted.

(d) Ryde Arts 2019

Consideration was given to the annual report. The Committee were pleased to see Ryde Arts partnering and working with other organisations on a variety of projects. The report was noted.

(e) Waterside Pool Trust

The request for grant funding of £20,000 towards the operational costs of the swimming pool and £10,000 to cover running costs for the Splash Park was received. Members requested sight of the latest accounts showing a full year's income and expenditure. The Clerk agreed to circulate this.

(f) Classic Car Event

The Committee considered the report and were impressed with the extent of the event and the numbers of people it brought into Ryde. It was suggested that a nomination be made to the Honors Committee and the Mayor agreed to write a letter to the organiser encouraging them to hold both days of the event in Ryde. The report was noted.

(g) Ryde Carnival Association

The Committee considered the report and recognised the importance of Carnival for the town. The report was noted.

(h) Aspire

The Committee received the report. It was noted that final accounts were in the process of being prepared and the Clerk would request these to be sent to the town council for circulation to members once completed. There was discussion regarding the extent and variety of organisations the Town Council supported through its grant funding programme and how this could be better communicated to the local community.

9/20 BUDGET MONITOR

The budget monitor for the period 1 April – 31 December 2019 was received. It was noted that there were two small overspends, one being insurance. The report was noted.

10/20 BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING 2020-2021

Members considered the results of the budget consultation exercise. The responsible financial Officer set out in his report the draft budget for the next financial year based on the current levels of service together with contracts that had already been awarded and previously approved decisions that would not necessitate and increase in next years council tax assuming the level of reserves reminded at the same level. It was noted that figures for street cleaning and grass cutting had not yet been received from IWC and would be reported to Full Council at its February meeting for decision. Members were informed that negotiations were currently taking place with IWC regarding the possibility of leasing a small number of car park spaces for staff in Lind Street car park. Again these figures would be reported to the February meeting.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

- (i) That the Town Council sets a precept to balance the budget as contained in the attached Appendix A. To include a budget line for the provision of new services and to provide reserves of £180,000 as at 31st March 2021, whilst maintaining a Band D Council Tax at its present sum of £137.36 per annum for the 2020-21 financial year.

- (ii) That the Band D Council Tax for 2020-21 based on the above be set at £137.36, representing no increase on that for the 2019-20 financial year.

11/20 WIGHTLINK TV COVERAGE

Members noted that quotes for the next years coverage on Wightlink ferries and in the terminal had been received but had not yet been considered the Marketing Working Party. It was anticipated that a report would be brought to the next meeting of the Finance Committee with recommendations from the Marketing Working Party.

12/20 WAIVER REQUEST RYDE TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – BEACON MAGAZINE

Consideration was given to waiver contract standing orders in order to place a contract with Beacon Magazine as Beacon Media Limited were the sole provider of this service. The costs were at the same level as the previous year. Members expressed the view that the format and content of the page needed to be improved.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

- (i) That the request for a waiver of the Contract Standing Orders of the Council be waved to enter into a contract with Beacon Media Limited for the publication of the Town Council's newsletter within the monthly edition of the Beacon magazine and that this decision be reported to Full Council for noting.
- (ii) That the Clerk be given authority to award the contract to Beacon Media Limited for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

12/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 25 February 2020.

CHAIRMAN

DATE