



# RYDE

## TOWN COUNCIL

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RYDE TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT 7PM ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016 IN THE COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES, 10 LIND STREET, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

PRESENT Councillors Adrian Axford,,Roi Milburn,Tim Wakeley and David Woodward.

IN ATTENDANCE Gareth Hughes – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)  
Saskia Blackmore – Clerk.  
One member of the public.

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Prior to the meeting there had been a public consultation period commencing at 5.30pm.

#### 1/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Henry Adams and Conrad Gauntlett. Councillor Milburn advised of the medical situation of the deputy Mayor..

#### 2/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest..

#### 3/16 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2015

On the proposition of Councillor Wakeley seconded by Councillor Axford it was -

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be approved.

#### 4/16 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members.

5/16 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2016-17.

A budget paper had been circulated by the Clerks & RFO, with a detailed budget contained as Appendix A. An email had been received from Councillor Wayne Whittle supporting the continuation of the Community Rail Partnership budget in 2016-7 and it was noted that the budgets that may be set aside for the Community Bus and the Community Rail Partnership would be for one year only. A discussion was also held about the correspondence that had been received from the Isle of Wight Council in respect of the devolution of Isle of Wight Council services. The Isle of Wight Council has indicated that it will close all public toilets on 26 March 2016 and it is looking to divest itself of parks and open spaces in 2017/18. The Clerk explained that work was underway to enable Ryde Town Council to agree a way forward in respect of the future of the town's public toilets and that assistance with this was being provided by the Town Council's Procurement Advisor. The Committee noted that this work would be reported to Members as soon as possible in order to allow a proper decision making process to be undertaken. Members also noted that any transfer of the town's parks may not take place until the 2017/18 budget year. The Chairman asked that the Committee consider making a recommendation to the Full Council to enable the Clerks to have the necessary delegated authority to continue with gathering information about public toilets and parks. He also noted that the Town Council are minded to continue with the provision of public toilets at this stage but that the information being gathered was vital to move this process forward.

Councillor Axford then proposed some alterations to Appendix A relating to the likely phasing of future expenditure. After a lengthy discussion a number of changes to Appendix A were agreed and it recommended to Full Council THAT

- I. A budget of £60,000 in 2016/17 for Organisational Review be agreed.
- II. The budget line for Community Highway Fund to become zero for the current year and £40,000 for 2016-17.
- III. The budget for Pedestrianisation to become zero for the current year and £50,000 for 2016-17.
- IV. A budget of up to £5,000 be set aside if required in 2016/17 only towards the Havenstreet Community Bus Service.
- V. A budget of £10,000 be set aside for planning enforcement activities.
- VI. That the following increases in budget be agreed:
  - a. Ryde in Bloom £2,000
  - b. Lighting £8,000
- VII. The budget line for Principal Parks to be deleted at this stage.

- VIII. That a budget of £70,000 be set aside for public toilets.
- IX. That the Town Council agrees that it is minded to continue with the provision of public toilets in Ryde and that Clerks be given delegated authority to undertake any work that is necessary to enable the Town Council to move this forward.
- I. The net precept (after deduction of Council Tax Support Grant) be set at £643,642 representing a Band D Council Tax of £83.17.

6/16 MARKETING GRANTS

The RFO advised that an advertisement in respect of applications for marketing grants had been placed in the County Press for its 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January editions. A closing date for applications of 8<sup>th</sup> February had been set and applications would be considered by Finance Committee at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**RESOLVED:** That the above timescales be noted.

7/16 WARD ALLOCATIONS

Councillors Gauntlett and Wakeley had produced a proposal paper setting out criteria for consideration in making ward allocations.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposals be recommended to Council as its guidelines for the consideration of ward allocations.

8/16 HR REPORT

Councillor Milburn gave a brief update on progress with the HR report which would be presented to Full Council at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016.

9/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place in the meeting room at 10 Lind Street on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 commencing at 7pm.