



RYDE

TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RYDE TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2018 IN THE IN THE COUNCIL
MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES, 10 LIND STREET, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.**

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Wakeley (Chairman), Henry Adams, Phil Jordan, Sue Lyons, Malcolm Ross, Jim Moody, Wayne Whittle

IN ATTENDANCE: Gareth Hughes (Responsible Financial Officer), Liz Dutton (Administration Officer), Steve Boswell (Procurement Officer)
Councillors Diana Conyers, Julian Critchley, 1 member of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: Cllr Critchley asked for a list of current contracts that had been awarded for longer than a year, together with beginning and end dates and for this to be circulated to all members.

1/18 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Axford, Chapman and Lucioni.

2/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Moody and Adams declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8, as members of Ryde Historic Society.

Councillor Ross declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11, as a member of the Isle of Wight Bus and Coach Museum.

3/18 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No written requests had been received.

4/18 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2017 be approved as an accurate record and be signed by the Chairman.

5/18 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cllr Whittle asked a question relating to TV and CCTV Monitors which had been raised at a recent PACT meeting. The Chairman confirmed that the Planning Committee would be looking at the issue.

6/18 TOWN AND PLANTING AND WATERING CONTRACT

At the discretion of the Chairman this item was brought forward on the agenda. The Chairman reminded members that the report had been amended in order for the discussion to remain in the open part of the meeting.

Members were informed that as a result of the tendering process for planting and watering a total of four valid tenders had been received. One was for both the watering and planting elements (Contractor A); one tender received was for the watering element only (Contractor D); and two further tenders had been received for the planting element only (Contractors B and C). The report set out the details of the results of the evaluation process along with the financial implications and members were reminded that there was currently budget provision for this service contained in the 2017-18 budget.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

- (i) That the award of the contract for both the Planting and Watering was made to **Contractor A** at the annual contract value of **£25,742.48**, being the Best Price and Quality Ratio tender received for both the Planting and Watering elements of the contract (this annual cost would increase on the anniversary of the contract by an amount equivalent to the Governments Consumer Price Index (CPI) all items index)
- (ii) That the tender term would be for an initial four-year period with a potential to extend by up to a maximum of 12 months at the sole discretion and agreement by Full Council. A minimum of three months' notice to be given to the contractor to either extend the contract or terminate the contract at the end of the initial four-year term.

7/18 COMMUNITY PANTRY

Consideration was given to a proposal by Southern Housing for funding for a community pantry project aimed at supporting families and households on low incomes. Members recognised that an agreement of funding in principle was being requested as the project was in its early stages and the details and timescales had yet to be developed.

RESOLVED:

That Ryde Town Council is supportive of this initiative in principle but would require a more detailed business plan and details of implementation and timescales before committing funding.

8/18 BUDGET MONITOR

Members considered the budget monitor of expenditure and income to budget for the period 1 April to 31 December 2017 and noted the report.

9/18 BUDGET PRECEPT UPDATE 2018-19

The Responsible Financial Officer introduced the report and updated the Committee as to the latest figures for the Local Council Tax Support Grant and local taxbase. Members considered the draft budget for the next year as set out in Appendix A of the report.

The Committee noted that the Town Council, via the General Purposes Working Party, may need to enter into discussions with the Isle of Wight Council regarding the possible devolution of additional services to the Town Council. Members also noted that now the Full Council had adopted a Vision Statement work would need to get underway to start to develop a Strategic Plan for the Council going forward.

Consideration was given to a number of applications to receive on-going funding support on an annual basis some of which had been funded through the Town Councils grant process. Prior to leaving the meeting, Cllr Julian Critchley, as the Councils representative on the Board of Trustees of the Waterside Pool confirmed that they were asking for £70,000 in 2018-19 in order to secure further grant funding.

Members considered the funding request that had been received from Historic Ryde Society and although supportive of the aims of the Society expressed concern at being asked to fund core costs of the organisation. The Committee noted that current marketing efforts were weak and would encourage the organisation to applying for future grants for marketing.

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Planning Committee in relation to the amalgamation of the Communities Highway Fund, Pedestrianisation and Ryde Area Action Plan into one budget heading entitled Public Realm Improvements. They were also supportive in retaining the budget

for planning enforcement and that the Planning Committee be given delegated authority to devise a policy for expenditure against this budget.

(A) RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

- (i) That the Town Council sets a precept of £923,635 (net) to balance the budget as contained in the attached Appendix A and to provide reserves of £120,000
- (ii) That this be equivalent to an increase in the Band D Council Tax of £20.88 per annum or 40p per week (an increase of 22.3%) to give a total band D Council Tax of £114.70 per annum.
- (iii) That funding be approved to the following organisations and included in the budget:
 - Ryde Carnival Association - £9,000
 - New Carnival Company - £3,000
 - Classic Car Event - £1,500
 - Ryde Arts Festival - £3,000
 - Harp on Wight - £2,700
- (iv) That a contribution of £49,100 towards Park Services delivered by the Isle of Wight Council be agreed for 2018/19.
- (v) That contribution of £17,000 (uplifted by 5% each year) towards a Ryde Environment Officer delivered by the Isle of Wight Council and £24,000 (uplifted by 5% each year) towards Playground Equipment delivered by the Isle of Wight Council be agreed for the lifetime of this Council
- (vi) That £70,000 be awarded to the Waterside Pool in 2018/19 and this be offset by a reduced annual contribution over the next four financial years.
- (vii) That the Footprint Trust continues to receive funding totalling £8,000 for the Warmer Homes Initiative to facilitate home visits and energy saving measures
- (viii) That Gift to Nature continues to receive funding totalling £10,000 to support Ryde's Countryside sites.
- (ix) That the current budget of £30,000 allocated to Beach Cleaning be retained
- (x) That the current budget of £6,000 allocated to In Bloom be retained
- (xi) That the current budget of £34,100 allocated for the summer and winter planting/watering schemes be retained

- (xii) That a budget of £20,000 be allocated to decorative lighting, Christmas Trees and electricity supply in 2018/19
- (xiii) That a budget of £20,000 be allocated to the Skatepark in 2018/19
- (xiv) That the budget allocation for allotments be increased to £15,000
- (xv) That the current budget of £20,000 allocated to beach safety be retained
- (xvi) That the existing budget of £29,000 allocated to marketing projects be agreed.
- (xvii) That a budget of £150,000 be allocated to Network Ryde (youth services) for the year 2018/19.
- (xviii) That the existing budget of £70,000 for public conveniences be retained
- (xix) That the existing budget of £20,000 for the Community Highways Fund, the existing budget of £50,000 for Pedestrianisation and the current budget of £5,000 allocated to the Ryde Area Action Plan be amalgamated into a new budget line for Public Realm Improvements and that the Planning Committee be given delegated authority to devise a policy for expenditure against this budget
- (xx) That the existing budget of £10,000 for Planning Enforcement be retained.
- (xxi) That budget lines for the Splashpark, Flagpole, Island Games Water Feature, Mayors Honorarium, Remembrance Wreaths and Million Blooms Site be retained and the budget line relating to the Town Criers Honorarium be deleted.
- (xxii) That the budget report be noted and that the results of the budget consultation to be circulated to all members

(B) RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

HISTORIC RYDE SOCIETY –

- (i) That a grant of £4,000 for the year 2018/19 be given to the Historic Ryde Society to contribute to the costs of the following:
 - Extension of heating: installation of eco-friendly storage heaters throughout the area
 - Replacement of one or two dehumidifiers

- Extending the existing security alarm system throughout the area
 - Replacing existing ceiling lights with less damaging and eco-friendly LED fittings;
 - Maintenance of existing display cabinets: replacing failed halogen lights, and installing lights in unlit cabinets, with LED fittings;
 - Installation of extra lighting and sockets in various areas; conditional on the Ryde Town Council logo being displayed on all publications and marketing material
- (ii) That a Ryde Town Council councillor is appointed to sit on the Board of Trustees of the Historic Ryde Society
- (iii) That the above grant to the Historic Ryde Society be funded from reserves

10/18 FOOTPRINT TRUST – WARMER RYDE INITIATIVE

Consideration was given to the quarterly report from the Footprint Trust Ryde Warmer Homes Initiative and also for the payment of the invoice for home visits and the provision of energy saving measures.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the invoice for Quarter 3 (October –December 2017) be approved.

11/18 DIRECT DEBITS

Members noted the current list of direct debits that had been set up on the bank account.

12/18 MARKETING GRANT – ISLE OF WIGHT BUS AND COACH MUSEUM

Consideration was given to an application for a marketing grant from the Isle of Wight Bus and Coach Museum for £745 for a Marketing Flyer and £500 for Rydabus 2.

RESOLVED:

That grants of £745 and £500 be awarded.

13/18 TIMETABLE FOR THE AWARD OF MARKETING GRANTS 2017/18

The Committee noted the timetable for the final round of marketing grants for 2017/2018.

14/18 WARD ALLOCATIONS

Consideration was given to Councillor Chapman request for a ward allocation to the Ryde Sea Cadets (TS Royal George) and to Ryde Carnival Association.

RESOLVED:

That a ward allocation of £100 be granted to the Ryde Sea Cadets (TS Royal George) and £50 to Ryde Carnival Association.

15/18 COMPLETION REPORT

The Committee noted the completion reports from the Rotary Club of Ryde and Harp on Wight for marketing grants awarded in March 2107 and also IW Literary Festival for a community grant awarded in June 2017.

16/18 LETTER OF THANKS

Members noted a letter of thanks from 2nd Ryde Sea Scouts that had been received following a ward allocation.

124/17DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Finance Committee would be held on Wednesday 21 February and the meeting in March would now be held on Tuesday 20 March 2018.

CHAIRMAN

DATE