



**Minutes of a Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting,
held in the Town Council Committee Room, Manor Offices,
Holsworthy, Wednesday 9th January 2019**

Present: Cllrs. Allen, Heaven, Hutchings, Sanders, & Watson.

In Attendance: Town Clerk (TC)

As Cllr. Punter was absent due to ill health, after discussion and a vote, it was agreed that Cllr. Hutchings should act as Chair for this meeting of the Committee.

1065. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Punter
Cllr. Shepherd

1066. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman requested that Cllrs. declare any interests as relevant matters arose.

1067. Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting Minutes

Cllr. Sanders proposed that the minutes of the Meeting held on 31st October 2018 are to be signed as a true and accurate record, Cllr. Watson seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention).

1068. Matters Arising

Items 1056/1038

Cllr. Watson asked for an update on the new Sports Pitch transfer. Cllr. Hutchings explained that the matter is still with TDC as the Pitch is still not up to standard; he has been informed by TDC that another Pitch Inspection will be carried out in January and has asked that he is invited to this. There is also the matter of whether the levels of the Pitch conform with the amended planning application that was granted. The TC will contact the planning enforcement officers at TDC to obtain an update.

Items 1056/1039

There had been no further contact from the Developers who currently own the Station Close recreation area.

Items 1056/1040

A full update will be given at the next Council meeting, but the Council is currently awaiting the final Lease to be drawn up by the Council's solicitors ready for signing by the Trustees of the Magpie/RBL Club.

1069. Accounts due for Payment and Budget Review

The TC went through the Accounts due for Payment for December 2018. The TC highlighted the contributions (both income and expenditure) for both the WW1 Events and the Christmas Events; the final income and expenditure for both projects will be detailed at the next meeting in February. The payment for the improved CCTV coverage for the Playground in Stanhope Park was also highlighted.

Cllr. Sanders proposed the accounts be paid. Cllr. Watson seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

The TC then went through the Budget Sheet. Explanations were provided on the probable overspend on the Office and insurance budgets which currently includes items in respect of the vehicle purchased in 2018 and the additional insurance to cover the first year of the Pavilion Building. The 2019/20 draft budget has been amended to reflect this.

Cllr. Watson asked about the amount of funds that would be left in the Council's Bank Accounts at the end of the Financial year 2018/19.

It was explained that the funds in the Bank Accounts not only included funds to cover the budgeted income and expenditure of the Council but also those funds allocated into the Council's Earmarked Reserves both for agreed projects and Section 106 agreements. It was also important that the Council had enough funds in non-earmarked Reserves to satisfy Audit requirements.

1070. To discuss and if appropriate agree the allocation of grants to various organisations.

After discussion on the various letters received requesting grants the following was agreed:

Holsworthy Moorland Training Group

Cllr. Heavens proposed that the Holsworthy Moorland Training Group be awarded a grant of £200. Cllr. Sanders seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

Holsworthy Rubies WI

Cllr. Hutchings proposed that the Holsworthy Rubies WI be awarded a grant of £100. Cllr. Watson seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

Holsworthy Twinning Association

Cllr. Sanders proposed that the Council organise a formal Reception for the Holsworthy Twinning Association twin town of Aunay sur Odon allocating a sum of £250 from its grants budget to cover the cost. Also, that a sum for the Reception be included in the 2020/21 Council budget Cllr. Watson seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

1071. To discuss the allocation of funds received from the Royal British Legion.

A cheque had been received from the Royal British Legion to purchase the three Silent Soldiers that had been used in the commemoration of 100 years since the end of WW1. After discussion it was agreed that the funds be allocated to the Mayor's Charity for the Viaduct.

Cllr. Allen proposed that the Council allocate the funds received from the Royal British Legion to purchase the three Silent Soldiers be allocated to the Mayor's Charity for the Viaduct. Cllr. Heaven seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

1072. To discuss the draft Budget for 2019/20

The TC presented the draft income and expenditure budget for 2019/20 and went through some of the items. The draft Project list was also presented. The budget and projects required make up the Precept that the Council would decide upon in the Council meeting on the 16th January. Four options for the Precept were presented by the TC which also detailed the effect of each options on the different Council Tax Bands. Members discussed the need to ensure that funds were available to improve the appearance of the Town and to pursue the ideas not yet progressed in the Town Regeneration Strategy. The TC also stressed the need to ensure that there were sufficient reserves not earmarked for specific projects and as recommended by External Auditors.

After discussion it was agreed that Option D be recommended to Full Council on the 16th January for approval and that the TC should bring to this meeting a list of projects to be funded from a Town Regeneration Fund.

Cllr. Watson proposed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommend to Full Council that Option D be approved. Cllr. Heaven seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

1073. Town Clerk's Report

There was nothing to report.

1074. Close

Cllr. Hutchings closed the meeting at 6.13pm.