

Stonehouse Town Council



MINUTES (Subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting)
of a meeting of THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 18
JANUARY 2016 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present:

Rob Waite (Convenor of Committee)
Jo Byrne (Deputy Convenor of Committee)
Theresa Watt (Chair of Council/Town Mayor)
Pam Swain
Tim Jackson
Paul Stephens

Also Present:

Town Clerk Gill Jennings

Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be recorded, filmed or photographed but that any person requiring such a record is asked to give polite notice at the start of the meeting.

K1/253 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

K1/254 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of their obligation within the requirements of the Adopted Model Code of Conduct to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests where applicable.

Cllr Waite declared an interest in K1/259.2

K1/255 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(Maximum of 15 minutes – Any member of the public may speak only once in respect of any business itemised on the Agenda for a maximum of 5 minutes)

No adjournment was called

K1/256 TO FORMALLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23
NOVEMBER 2015

The Minutes were approved as a true record

K1/257 COMMUNICATIONS

1. To receive a progress report

The Communications Working Group had not met. In the meantime the latest newsletter was at the printers.

K1/258 YOUTH WORK

1. To receive a report of the Youth Working Group

The Youth Working Group are due to meet.

K1/259 FINANCE

1. To check and agree expenditure/receipts totals against budget headings for November & December 2015 and bank reconciliation

November Expenditure £153247 and receipts £111615.11 were agreed

December Expenditure £8927.09 and receipts £937.50 were agreed

K1/259 Finance (continued)

2. To agree payments due to date – Payments due to date in January £9961.56 were authorised
3. To receive a report from the Staffing Committee meeting of 11th January – The Committee received a report from the Staffing Committee and **agreed to make provision in reserves (£8000) for a retirement gratuity and to ensure there was sufficient budget for auto-enrolment of new employees in 2016-17.**
4. To agree the Committee budget for 2016-17 and to make a recommendation to Town Council regarding the required precept for 2016-17 – **The Committee budget was agreed at £121300. This represented a cut in the 2015-16 budget of £8200. The Committee noted that ART Committee had requested £102950 and Regeneration Committee had requested £14500, therefore the precept required would be £238750. The Committee would recommend this precept figure to the Council for adoption. For Resolution**
5. To receive an audit report from the Council's internal auditors – The Committee noted the comments of the auditors who had found the accounts to be in order. **They agreed that the Clerk should arrange for a fresh valuation of the council's premises.**
6. To consider priorities for funding from reserves in 2016-17 – **In addition to the gratuity the Committee would like to make provision for town hall & communication improvements and would need approximately £12000 For Resolution**

K1/260 COUNCIL POLICIES

To receive a report from the General Policy Working Group and to consider any changes or additional policies:

In light of Public Contracts 2015 regulations the Committee agreed to make amendments to Standing Orders/Financial Regulations. **The Financial Regulations were reviewed and amended.** The Standing Orders were being further examined for compatibility with all other documents. **The Committee agreed the proposed Scheme of Delegation.** Councillor Byrne was reviewing suggested amendments to the Complaints Policy and Procedure. Councillor Watt is to draft a Data Protection Policy. **For Resolution**

K1/261 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD

To consider queries raised – the Clerk was working through the queries raised.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Council will by resolution exclude the public from item K1/262 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest

K1/262 CORRESPONDENCE

1. To consider an insurance claim and legal challenge
The Committee considered an insurance claim and agreed that the Council's insurers were best placed to advise on its validity. The Committee considered the legal matter and agreed to refer it to the Council's solicitors for advice.

K1/263 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7th March 2016

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm