



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting)
of a meeting of the FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 19th
FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE

Present:

Leigh Binns (Deputy Committee Convenor)
John Callinan
Carol Kambites (Deputy Chair/Town Mayor)
Pam Swain (Committee Convenor)
Theresa Watt (Chair/Town Mayor)

Also Present:
Town Clerk

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.

K1/455 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Aldis (holiday)

K1/456 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.

There were no declarations of interest

K1/457 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE 15th JANUARY 2018

The Minutes of the 15th January were agreed as correct.

K1/458 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An adjournment of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to raise questions on items on the agenda (3 minutes per person max)

No adjournment was called.

K1/459 TO RECEIVE MINUTES FROM THE EVENTS WORKING GROUP

There were no minutes to discuss.

K1/460 YOUTH SERVICES

1. To receive a report from the Youth Working Group, consider any recommendations and agree actions

Cllr Swain reported that she had checked on issues with Cainscross but their difficulties relating to buildings. Youth Working Group will meet with The Door to receive their Profile Report. In the meantime they have met with Young Gloucestershire who admitted that they do not really want to run youth clubs. The youth building is currently closed and meetings are held outside due to behaviour issues with one individual. The Committee considered the staff safety aspects and agreed that sessions should be cut to 2 per week with 3 staff attending as opposed to 3 sessions of 2 staff. Young Gloucestershire will arrange a meeting with the police for councillors to attend.

2. Update on youth building condition

A new lock has been fitted to the front door. Lighting and heating installations underway. It was agreed that new sensor lighting should be provided between the container and the building and over the path up to the building.

3. Update of youth grant expenditure

The Clerk confirmed submitting the monitoring forms to Stroud District Council.

4. Consider request of Junior Parkrun for storage facilities and consider welfare arrangements

Committee agreed that Parkrun could use the storage room in the metal container and that they should be offered use of the toilets on a trial basis.

K1/461 TOWN HALL PREMISES

Discuss any response received from Glos County Council and agree action

The Committee were surprised at the tone of the response given that GCC had indicated some urgency in making a decision. The Committee agreed the terms of the reply which would be checked by Building Facilities Working Group.

K1/462 FINANCE

1. To check and agree expenditure/receipts totals against budget headings for January

Expenditure £11663.69 Receipts £12385.06 were proposed by Cllr Kambites/seconded by Cllr Watt and agreed as correct by unanimous vote.

2. To agree the bank reconciliation December & January

Proposed as correct by Cllr Watt/seconded by Cllr Binns

December £94123.81 and January £84595.86 agreed as correct by unanimous vote

3. Authorise payments to date

Payments totalling £16295.64 were agreed as correct

4. To consider and decide on an application for funding St Cyr's Church

The Committee considered the funding application and decided that it might be construed as inappropriate use of power in that LGA 1894 prohibits councils

involvement in maintaining or improvement of buildings or land owned by the church. S215 of LGA 1972 permits a council to maintain a closed churchyard. Therefore the council can only contribute to the maintenance of the closed part and it might be difficult if giving a general grant to ensure that money is only spent in that regard. On this occasion the Committee decided by unanimous vote to decline the grant request.

5. To authorise further payments by Electronic Transfer - **The Committee agreed by unanimous vote that the following could be paid by ET:**
Jireh, Kellaway, Scott Security, Abbey Business, Stroud Office Supplies, Stonehouse Community Association

6. To receive an updated risk assessment and agree insured items
The Committee reviewed the Council's risk assessment and agreed to recommend that the Council takes note of the risks highlighted. Insurance values to be updated. Councillor Callinan agreed to carry out an audit of the council's financial affairs in the absence of other audit panel members.

K1/463 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Minutes were circulated. The Working Group asked for guidance on use of social media and were still unsure whether the wording of the Communications Policy was correct. Cllr Callinan offered to review this. The Group had discussed councillor use of social media and asked for training to be organised. The Group are sourcing another publisher to quote for Stonehouse News as they were disappointed with the current publication. They have concerns about the costs of the current website and will look at other systems in due course.

K1/464 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5th March 2018 (to discuss Youth Provision)
26th March 2018

Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 The Committee will pass a resolution excluding the public from Item K1/465 due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and publicity of the item would be prejudicial to the public interest

K1/465 To receive Minutes from the Staffing Committee Meeting of the 12th February 2018 and consider any recommendations

The Committee noted the Minutes and agreed the actions taken.

Councillor Kambites proposed/Cllr Callinan seconded approval of the Bullying & Harassment Policy, this was agreed by unanimous vote

Councillor Callinan proposed/Cllr Binns seconded approval of the Grievance Policy & Procedures, these were agreed by unanimous vote

