

FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 22nd May 2013

Present: Councillors Slemmings (Chairman), Bird, Deacon, Jan Garfield, Jon Garfield, Morris, Newman, Savage, Sennington, Sharman and Smith.

29. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barber, Walker, Webb and Williams.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bird, Deacon, Jan Garfield, Morris, Savage, Sennington and Smith declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Councillor Newman declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as a Member of Suffolk County Council.

All other interests in relation to matters pertaining to the accounts as previously declared.

31. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2013, were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

32. ACCOUNTS

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting, the Finance Officer, Debbie Frost, who was instrumental in the preparation of these, and the end of year accounts.

RESOLVED that the accounts from 1 st March 2013 – 31 st March 2013 amounting to £42,299.66, presented to this Committee be approved.

33. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/2013

The Chairman presented the annual accounts of Felixstowe Town Council for the financial year 2012/2013. Members considered the balance sheet, explanatory notes and income and expenditure accounts attached to these minutes.

Members discussed the Town Council's accounts for the year ending 31st March, 2013 and the Clerk and Finance Officer provided clarification on a number of points raised. Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED to recommend to Felixstowe Town Council that it accept and approve the Annual Accounts of the Town Council for the financial year 2012/2013 appended to these minutes.

34. STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE FOR THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/2013

The Chairman explained to Members that it was necessary to complete the Statement of Assurance for the financial year 2012/2013. A draft Statement of Assurance had been circulated to all members with the agenda for the meeting.

Members considered the Statement of Assurance and following discussion it was:

<p>RESOLVED to recommend to Felixstowe Town Council that the Statement of Assurance appended to these minutes be approved and that it be forwarded to the Town Council's External Auditors.</p>

35. OCCASIONAL GRANTS

a. Music in Felixstowe

Members considered a request for financial assistance from Music in Felixstowe towards musical performances in July (hence the inclusion on the agenda) and a revival of the Felixstowe Folk Festival in August. The Chairman confirmed that it was the Town Council's usual practice to consider all such requests once a year annually, with time bounded requests considered as and when required. The risk to considering requests piecemeal was a diminution in the amount available for distribution annually. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Town Council could be able to be somewhat more flexible depending on the circumstances. The Clerk reported that the draft of a grants policy was in progress for Members' future consideration which may assist. Members remained of the view that for any grant there should be a key local link to Felixstowe, and that financial supporting information should be made available to Members. The Clerk was requested to ask that further supporting financial information be submitted in this case.

b. Suffolk Constabulary

Members considered a request for financial assistance from Suffolk Constabulary in support of Volunteer Police Cadets. Following discussion, it was ascertained that cadets from Felixstowe were affiliated to the cadet group operating from Martlesham. Members were of the view that this more generic request for assistance should be considered at the annual review of requests later in the year.

36. SUB-COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Following clarification that election of Chairman and Vice Chairman was the first item on the agenda for each sub-committee and working party, it was:

<p>RESOLVED that the following Sub-Committee and Working Party membership be approved for the Municipal Year 2013/2014.</p>

Finance Sub-committee

Councillor Deacon reported that he would be standing down from the Finance Sub Committee, and confirmed in her absence that it had been agreed with Councillor Williams that she would take his place.

Councillor Jan Garfield [Mayor]
Councillor C Slemmings [Chairman Finance and General Purposes Committee]
Councillor D Savage [Vice Chairman Finance and General Purposes Committee]
Councillor A Smith [Chairman Plans Committee]
Councillor M Stokell [Vice-Chairman Plans Committee]
Councillor N Barber
Councillor J Sennington
Councillor M Walker
Councillor K Williams

Cemetery and Allotments Sub-committee

Councillor C Slemmings
Councillor Jan Garfield
Councillor M Morris
Councillor J Sennington
Councillor M Stokell
Councillor M Walker
Councillor C Webb

Felixstowe in Flower Sub-committee

Councillor N Barber
Councillor M Deacon
Councillor Jon Garfield
Councillor D Savage
Councillor C Webb
Councillor K Williams

Play/Leisure/Outdoor Sports Facilities for Young People Working Party

Councillor M Morris
Councillor D Savage
Councillor J Sennington

Community Services Group (Health Councillors)

Councillor N Barber
Councillor M Deacon
Councillor Jan Garfield
Councillor G Newman
Councillor M Sharman

37. SUB-COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY REPORTS

a. Notes of Meeting Concerning the Christmas Lighting Scheme of 19th March 2013

The Chairman introduced the notes of the Meeting Concerning the Christmas Lighting Scheme of 19th March 2013. Concerns were noted that traders' donations to the scheme had reduced and the Chamber's membership was reducing overall. Members were pleased that the scheme remained a key event for the town.

b. Report of the Working Party Concerning Play/Leisure/Outdoor Sports Facilities for Young People of 30th April 2013

The Chairman introduced the report of the Working Party Concerning Play/Leisure/Outdoor Sports Facilities for Young People of 30th April 2013 which included items concerning Walton Recreation Ground, Langer Park, Coronation Sports Ground, Allenby Park, Cavendish Park, Skateboard Park, South Seafront, Suffolk Coastal District Council – Review of Sports Facilities, update on amount in Outdoor Play Space Fund and Sports Fund, Gosford Way, Suffolk Coastal Services/Grounds Maintenance and Suffolk Coastal District Council – officer resource for play.

A discussion took place on Members' understanding of the current situation with regard to the drainage problems at Andrew Close and flooding at Langer Park. Councillor Morris updated Members on a meeting co-ordinated by Councillor Barber also attended by representatives from Suffolk County Council, the Environment Agency and Anglian Water, to try to work out the cause of the problem. Members were concerned that dog fouling in public parks was still an issue. Improvements to the Walton Recreation Ground were warmly welcomed.

It was RESOLVED that the report of the Working Party Concerning Play/Leisure/Outdoor Sports Facilities for Young People of 30 th April 2013, circulated to all Members and recorded in the Sub Committee and Working Party Minute Book be approved.

c. Report of the meeting of the Felixstowe Youth Forum of 1st May 2013

Councillor Savage introduced the report of the Felixstowe Youth Forum of 1st May 2013 which included items concerning the new Big Question – how do you make Felixstowe a better place?, Felixstowe Academy items, Level2 items, Causton School items, Seafront Gardens, Colneis School items, Grange School items, annual Litterpick, review of Felixstowe Leisure Centre and Brackenbury Sports Centre, update on Spa Pavilion and Fearless. It was confirmed that the Community Litterpick would take place on Monday 17th June from 12.30 – 1.15 pm behind Morrisons.

It was RESOLVED that the report of the Felixstowe Youth Forum of 1 st May 2013, circulated to all Members and recorded in the Schools Minute Book be approved.

38. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SUFFOLK COASTAL

Members noted correspondence from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England regarding an electoral review of Suffolk Coastal District Council brought about by an imbalance in levels of electoral representation in the district. A consultation was taking place until 3rd June 2013, following which a provisional

decision would be taken. Members discussed the potential impact on town and parish councils which was as yet unclear. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Town Council could form a working party to respond to a more concrete proposal, and individuals were at liberty to respond to the consultation.

39. PRECEPT REFERENDUMS BILL

Members noted a briefing note from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils regarding the Precept Referendums Bill: Second Reading Delayed. Members discussed their concerns in relation to what was proposed under this bill, and it was suggested that Dr Therese Coffey MP, a sponsor of the bill, be invited to meet with Town Councillors to discuss the matter. The Clerk was requested to progress this, and to respond to SALC indicating the Town Council's strong support to their position on the matter.

40. FELIXSTOWE AND TRIMLEYS PENINSULA FUTURES STEERING GROUP

Members noted a report of the key discussion points and actions of the Felixstowe Futures Steering Group meeting held on 24th April 2013. It was confirmed that Town Councillor representatives on the Group were Councillors Savage and Sennington with Councillor Smith as a Suffolk Coastal District Council representative. Some concerns were again raised regarding Suffolk Coastal District Council's approach to formal consultation with the Town Council on matters pertaining to the town. Councillor Deacon reiterated his concern regarding the dreadful state of the boating lake area of the seafront which remained an eyesore with the summer season approaching. It was confirmed that discussions had taken place regarding at least some work taking place there, for example painting, or placing some floral tubs in the area. The Clerk reported that she had advised District Council Officers to contact Councillor Williams direct with regard to the rover ticket request and that no other notification had been received with regard to the District Council's proposed strategic review of car parks.

41. SUFFOLK COASTAL COMMUNITY AWARDS EVENT

Members noted an email from the Community & Economic Services Department, Suffolk Coastal District Council concerning the Suffolk Coastal Community Awards event. Councillor Smith reported with regard to awards that Suffolk Coastal District Council had recently received an award from The Felixstowe Society for its coastal protection work for the enhancement of the environment which was appreciated.

42. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondence from the Felixstowe and District Citizens Advice Bureau, Felixstowe Lions Club and the Felixstowe and District Council for Sport and Recreation respectively expressing grateful thanks for the Town Council's financial support to these local organisations.

CHAIRMAN