

MINUTES of the **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** meeting held at Felixstowe Town Hall on **Wednesday 23rd July 2014** at **7pm**

PRESENT: Cllr C Slemmings (Chairman) Cllr D Savage (Vice-Chairman)
 Cllr G Newman (Town Mayor) Cllr A Smith
 Cllr Jon Garfield Cllr Jan Garfield
 Cllr S Bird Cllr J Sennington
 Cllr C Webb Cllr N Barber
 Cllr K Williams Cllr M Sharman

OFFICERS: Mr A Tadjirishi (Town Clerk)
 Mrs D Frost (Finance Officer)
 Mr G Mussett (Interim Town Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the Press, two members of the Public.

181. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Deacon and Cllr M Morris.

182. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR'S INTERESTS

Cllrs S Bird, Jan Garfield, C Slemmings, M Sharma, J Sennington, D Savage, A Smith and K Williams each declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest as Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Cllr K Williams declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in relation to the Quiet Lanes item (Minute 161) as a resident of a road adjoining one of the quiet lanes routes.

183. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

184. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2014 were agreed as a true record by those Members present, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

185. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM QUIET LANES SUFFOLK

The Committee resolved to decline the request.

186. TO CONSIDER A PRESENTATION TO FELIXSTOWE HOCKEY CLUB TO DENOTE THE AWARD OF ENGLAND HOCKEY'S "CLUB OF THE YEAR" AWARD

The Committee resolved that Felixstowe Hockey Club be awarded an engraved town plaque and authorised expenditure of up to £100 from budget heading 4468 (Miscellaneous) in order to provide this award.

187. TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION AND CIVIC BUDGETS

Members requested that the report be provided in a larger font for future meetings.

The Committee resolved to note the financial position as presented.

188. TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE CHANGES TO MEETING ROOM LAYOUT AND OTHER MECHANISMS FOR INCREASING THE AUDIBILITY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Committee resolved that:

- a) The room layouts for Full Council and Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings be changed to an open 'U' layout in order to improve audibility of proceedings for those sitting in the public gallery;
- b) The functionality of the hearing loop system be investigated in case of repair;
- c) A report be brought back to this Committee in six months' time to consider a review of the arrangement alongside approximate costs for the installation of a microphone audio system.

189. TO CONSIDER A POLICY FOR THE HANDLING OF ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS

The Committee resolved that there should be no change to pre-existing practices for handling public enquiries and complaints and instructed the Town Clerk to provide an update of the use of the 'lovesfelixstowe' email account at a future meeting.

190. TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO ESTABLISH A BUDGET FOR YOUTH FORUM PROJECTS IN THE 2015/16 BUDGET

Members supported the principle of funding for Youth Forum projects.

The Committee resolved that funding for Youth Forum projects be considered for inclusion as part of the budgeting process for 2015/16.

191. TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR THE USE OF 91-95 UNDERCLIFF ROAD WEST AND MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

The Committee considered the information provided in the report. Based on this information and following a debate the Committee resolved not to pursue an acquisition of the property at this time.

192. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____